

The politicians and fascist groups that whipped up a climate of racism >>Page 3

# NAZI KILLS MP JO COX



# Socialist Worker

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**SOLIDARITY  
WITH  
MIGRANTS**  
**PAGES 10&11**



PROTESTERS BLOCKED the port of Dover last Saturday after French authorities banned them from taking aid to refugees who are trapped in Calais by Britain's brutal border controls

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

# TORY SPLITS ARE OUR CHANCE CAMERON OUT

by CHARLIE KIMBER

**THE TORIES** have torn themselves apart. Let's use that to build resistance and drive them out.

Socialist Worker called for an anti-racist, internationalist Leave vote in the European Union referendum.

But whatever the result this week, we need to step up the battle against racism and cuts, and to fight harder to put people before profit.



PICTURE: PA

## EUROPEAN UNION

**Ruling class is terrified of leaving the rotten EU**

MILLIONS OF working class people are rightly angry and resentful about how they have been made to bear the brunt of the economic crisis.

They want a chance to hit back. By lining up to defend the European Union, the top Tories, Blairites, bosses and bankers have made clear the referendum is such a chance.

>>Pages 4,5&6

## LGBT+



**How can we win sexual liberation?**

UNDER capitalism sexuality is dehumanised and turned into a commodity.

We're told that we can satisfy our needs by simply buying the latest product.

But our sexual needs cannot be satisfied like this.

Sexual liberation will come in a society that allows liberation in general.

>>Pages 14&15

## HEALTH SERVICE

**Hospital is 'more like a warzone' than an A&E**

THE ACCIDENT and emergency (A&E) department at North Middlesex Hospital in north London could be shut because it is unsafe.

Patients and workers at the hospital spoke to Socialist Worker about the scale of the crisis.

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## THE THINGS THEY SAY

### 'We'll end up being for the elite and the very rich'

Charlotte Avery is worried. But as headteacher of St Mary's in Cambridge she urged private schools to work harder to persuade families to spend money on education

### 'Haven't started yet'

Donald Trump makes a promise—or a threat—to campaign more actively

### 'I think people have found this debate, and all the facts and the figures, perhaps quite confusing'

David Cameron explains the thinking behind the Remain campaign's strategy

### 'Sex Marxists are dissolving the basis for social cohesion'

Canadian politician Larry Feather shows its not just British politicians losing the plot

### 'Those who diminish and denigrate our country and its monarch and flag are left liberal luvvies'

Frederick Forsyth gets upset at the lack of love for Britain



# Biggest Tory donor raided for money laundering and fraud

**THE Conservative party's biggest donor, the telecoms giant Lycamobile, has been raided by French police on suspicion of money laundering and tax fraud.**

The Conservatives accepted almost £900,000 in donations from the firm while it was being investigated for tax fraud and money laundering.

Nineteen people were arrested after Lycamobile was raided by French police on Friday of last week.

Nine were charged, including the general manager in France Alain Jochimek.

Police have been investigating the company since last December.

Cash collectors working for the company were caught on camera dropping rucksacks containing hundreds of thousands of pounds at post offices in London. French prosecutors

said that nine people had been charged with money laundering of at least £13.4 million and VAT fraud.

Lycamobile has denied financial mispractice.

Lycamobile's Sri Lankan-born owner, Subaskaran Allirajah, is a member of the exclusive Leader's Group for top Tory donors.

He attended the Tories' fundraising ball in February 2015 where he bought a statue of Margaret Thatcher for £210,000.

He has dined with David Cameron or members of his cabinet twice in the past six months, and is also close to Boris Johnson, after bank-rolling his general election campaign.

The Conservatives have accepted £2.2 million from Lycamobile in total and £870,000 since December.

**BARON HAYWARD** of Cumnor in the County of Oxfordshire is an ex-Tory MP. He has had some very urgent business to raise at the House of Lords.

He would like new rules in Whitehall to make more space on official forms.

The reason is so he can fit in all his titles.

Not enough space on this caption, m'lord

**SELLING £90 bottles** of champagne signed by the prime minister David Cameron used to be easy money for Tory fundraisers.

Perhaps it is a sign of the times that local Tory associations have cut the price of an autographed bottle in half to a don't-miss bargain of £45.

## Philip Green bucks trend with new Gulfstream

**FORMER BHS tycoon Sir Philip Green** has blown £48.4million on a private jet.

The Gulfstream G650ER is an upgrade on the exclusive plane the Monaco tax exile already owns.

Sir Philip's wife Lady Tina is to spend £300,000 re-designing the interior.

A Gulfstream spokesperson said, "It is like an office in the sky. "You can use your phone, it has four living areas and 100 per cent fresh air which is refreshed every two minutes."

**FAT CATS** and corporations are tightening their belts by



hiring smaller private jets. British air taxi operator GlobeAir offers one-way flights from London to Toulon in southern France for £62,000.

The number of flights chartered for four passengers rose by 22.6 percent in the year to April. But in the same period, bookings for eight-seat and 12-seat planes fell by 9.9 percent.

## Trying times for the masters of the universe

**GOLDMAN Sachs** bank's lawyers are in London for a case filled with private jets, prostitution, drinks in Dubai and yachts in Cannes.

It may take months to resolve the curious case of the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) and the small fortune it claims to have lost after Goldman's advice.

Lloyd Blankfein, Goldman's chief executive, said in 2009 that, by making its clients rich, his bank was "doing God's work".

Among emails presented in evidence by the LIA was a 2008 message from

**Goldman Sachs**

an executive.

He said of his Libyan clients, "They are very unsophisticated and anyone could 'rape' them."

Another wrote to a colleague, "You have just delivered a pitch on structured leverage loans to someone who lives in the middle of the desert with his camels." Charming bunch.

## Desmond Expresses support

"BORIS more trusted than prime minister David Cameron." And "Roaring Boris buries pro-EU camp" were two of the calmer Daily Express newspaper headlines of recent months. What they share with a great many Daily Express headlines is a love of Boris Johnson.

Owner of the Daily Express, and other pornographic titles, Richard Desmond, is keen to develop his Westferry Printers site in London's Docklands.

The local council had been minded to reject the plan on the grounds of a lack of affordable housing. Happily though Desmond applied to have the decision made by the mayor.

And to the celebration of all, Johnson put the plans though as one of his last acts as London mayor.

## FIGURE IT OUT

# £3.9BN

The amount the government say they have spent on renewal of Trident so far

# £2BN

The extra amount the government has spent so far but didn't include in the figures

## On the bus to Wimbledon's gravy train

**WIMBLEDON MP Stephen Hammond** is an ex transport minister. He used to be responsible for roads. Now he is a political consultant for the Confederation of Passenger Transport.

They describe themselves as "recognised by the government as the voice of the bus and coach industry."

The government is planning a bill to affect local control over bus companies. Companies are mostly concerned with keeping regulation off their buses. The £7,500 he declared in May for the companies suggests the entirely legitimate lobbying will be successful.

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Socialist Worker  
PO Box 71327  
London  
SE11 9BW

# Racist hatred was behind the murder of MP Jo Cox

by SADIE ROBINSON

**THE MURDER of Labour MP Jo Cox has led to widespread shock and horror—which Socialist Worker shares.**

The Batley and Spen MP was shot and stabbed on Thursday of last week in Birstall, West Yorkshire. She later died in hospital.

Cox had spoken out in favour of immigration and in defence of refugees. Witnesses say that her suspected attacker, Thomas Mair, shouted “Britain First” during the attack.

Britain First is a Nazi party founded by former members of the fascist British National Party (BNP).

In court, Mair gave his name as “Death to traitors, freedom for Britain”.

His language echoed that of Britain First’s deputy leader Jayda Fransen during the London election campaign. She said politicians guilty of “ruining our country” through support for immigration “will face the wrath of the Britain First movement, make no mistake about it!

“We will not rest until every traitor is punished for their crimes against our country. And by punished, I mean good old fashioned British justice at the end of a rope!”

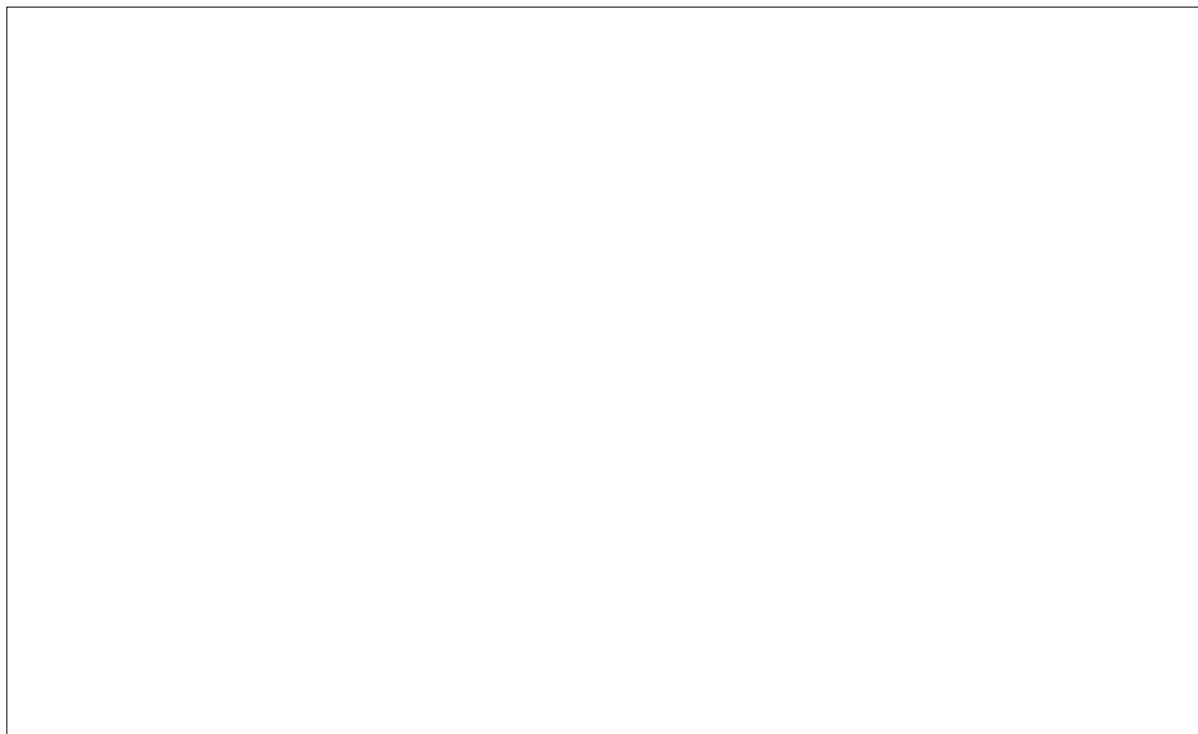
## Connections

It isn’t yet completely clear why Cox was killed. But it is clear that Mair had connections with Nazi organisations (see right).

And it is clear that the killing took place in the context of vile, relentless racism against migrants and refugees.

This racism has been ratcheted up since the European Union (EU) referendum campaigning got underway. But politicians and right wing rags were spouting it well before that.

They have consistently encouraged



Jo Cox MP

ordinary people to fear and hate refugees, and blame migrants for all of their problems.

Some, such as leader of the racist Ukip party Nigel Farage, predicted that tensions over immigration would lead to violence. It is no surprise that,

## MOURNERS OUTSIDE parliament last week

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

where such hatred is whipped up, violent attacks will follow.

Many ordinary people have condemned the killing and the hatred that fuelled it.

## Vigil

Hundreds attended a vigil at St Peter’s Church in Birstall to mourn Cox’s death. A smaller group held a vigil in Leeds city centre, while others have left tributes outside parliament.

Cox’s husband, Brendan Cox, pledged to “fight against the hate that killed Jo”.

Other vigils took place in the following days, drawing in hundreds of people including in front of parliament and in cities including Manchester and Cardiff.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn

addressed a vigil in his north London Islington North constituency.

Politicians and newspapers are making much of mourning Cox. But some are gross hypocrites.

They have whipped up the racism, hatred and fear that feed Nazi organisations and make violent attacks more likely.

On the day of Cox’s death the Daily Mail newspaper ran a front page declaring that “another lorry load of migrants” had arrived in Britain.

We need to keep resisting this hatred and stand against attempts to divide us.

**What’s your story?**  
Email with your ideas  
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

## Nazi roots of suspect

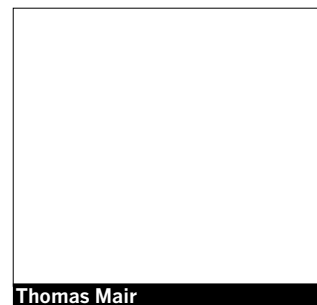
RECORDS SHOW that Thomas Mair supported the National Alliance (NA), once a prominent Nazi organisation in the US, for decades.

Mair bought a manual from the NA in 1999 that included instructions on how to build a pistol.

A Thomas Mair also subscribed to a white supremacist publication called SA Patriot.

Mair is also linked to the hard right pro-apartheid Springbok Club.

Its online magazine



Thomas Mair

inquired in 2006 about “Thomas Mair, from Batley in Yorkshire [who] was one of the earliest subscribers and supporters of ‘S.A. Patriot’.”

The Springbok Club held meetings with speakers including Neil Hamilton, who is now Ukip deputy leader.

In May 2000 Mair was one of up to 20 racists, including BNP members, at a meeting in a London pub. They aimed to help the NA’s record label break into Europe.

FBI informant Todd Blodgett said, “From what I could surmise, Tommy Mair was loosely affiliated with the Leeds chapter of the National Alliance.”

During their conversations Mair referred to reading a book by Holocaust denier David Irving and used antisemitic language.

## ON THE WEB

Online stories this week on  
www.socialistworker.co.uk

- 1 **Left set to gain in new Spanish election**  
Andy Durgan
- 2 **Pickets at parliament as BBC workers strike**
- 3 **Climate crisis needs political solutions not technical ones**  
Martin Empson
- 4 **Fury as aid convoy to Calais is blocked**
- 5 **University workers strike in Sussex to end casualisation**

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**Michael Roberts** looks at robots and artificial intelligence

**Kate Evans** discusses her book *Red Rosa: a Graphic Biography of Rosa Luxemburg*

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**Hsiao-Hung Pai** on her book *Angry White People*

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marxismfestival.org.uk





# Ruling class terrified of leaving the rotten EU

Bosses have fought to defend their interests ahead of the referendum this Thursday, writes **Dave Sewell**

**CAMPAIGNING** in the referendum on Britain's European Union (EU) membership resumed on Monday after a pause following the murder of Labour MP Jo Cox.

David Cameron didn't hesitate to hijack revulsion at her death into support for a vote to Remain.

He tweeted, "Jo Cox's strong voice in the campaign to remain in the EU will be missed".

Stock markets rallied after polls put Remain back in the lead following Cox's death.

Investors had pulled out £70 billion from FTSE 100 companies in just three days last week fearing a Leave vote.

Bosses held up the stock market turmoil as a reason to vote Remain to safeguard the economy.

## Hollowness

But it shows the hollowness of claims from some on the left that leaving the EU would strengthen corporations and the rich.

The ruling class is terrified of losing the EU that helps it rule.

Kathleen Brooks, research director at online trading compnay Gain Capital, said, "The markets have always been more comfortable with the UK remaining in the European Union".

Car industry bosses were the

**If Britain votes to Leave—  
Tories Out!**

- Call a general election
- No to austerity
- Migrants welcome here

**6pm, Friday 24 June  
Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA**

Protest called by #Lexit—the Left Leave campaign

latest to put out a statement insisting on a Remain vote.

Right wing TV presenter Jeremy Clarkson joined David Cameron to call for a Remain vote.

Clarkson released a video on Monday of this week complaining that a Leave vote would make it more expensive to film his TV programme.

The right wing Mail on Sunday newspaper devoted a two page editorial to the case for Remain.

In such company, it was no surprise to see the racism that has characterised much of the campaign continue last week.

**UKIP LEADER Nigel Farage unveils his racist poster**

On the Leave side, Ukup leader Nigel Farage unveiled a racist poster showing refugees coming into Slovenia with the slogan "breaking point".

It was widely condemned by Tories on both sides seeking to distance themselves from Farage—including defence secretary Philip Hammond.

## Cloth

But Farage's foul poster is cut from the same cloth as Hammond's own remarks about "marauding" Africans and David Cameron's reference to a "swarm" of migrants.

On the Remain side, leading Labour figures lined up to call for caps on immigration from the EU (see page 6).

Instead of bending to the racism of the campaigns, socialists should defend freedom of movement—and campaign against all immigration controls.

With immigration put at the centre of the EU debate it will be no surprise if many of those who vote on Thursday are motivated by racism. Yet it's clear this is not the only factor.

The arrogance of the Remain campaign with its preaching "experts"

and economic blackmail strikes a raw nerve.

Millions of working class people are rightly angry and resentful about how they have been made to bear the brunt of the economic crisis and given no say.

They want a chance to hit back. And by lining up to defend the EU, the top Tories, Blairites, bosses and bankers have made clear that this is such a chance.

## On other pages...

Don't leave anger at establishment to the racist right >> **Page 6**

## FIGURE IT OUT

**15** billion pounds of spending cuts promised by George Osborne in his "punishment budget"

**15** billion pounds promised in tax rises, including increasing the basic rate of income tax to 22 percent

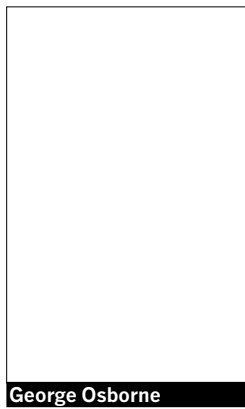
**65** Tory MPs promised to vote against the budget if Osborne pushes ahead

## Osborne takes punishment

Chancellor George Osborne was humiliated last week after his attempt to threaten voters with a "punishment budget" backfired.

He claimed that leaving the European Union would automatically cause economic chaos and a £30 billion "black hole" in the budget.

This would supposedly have left



George Osborne

him no choice but to make even more cuts and raise taxes.

But 65 Eurosceptic Tory MPs pledged to vote against it.

This scuppered both the budget and Osborne's credibility as a potential Tory leader.

It further fuelled expectations of a Tory leadership crisis in the event of a Leave vote.

## Doctors don't want EU's dirty money

HUMANITARIAN organisation Doctors Without Borders (MSF) announced last week that it would no longer accept funding from the EU in protest at its clampdown on refugees.

It singled out a deal with Turkey that enables refugees who have reached Greece to be deported.

"The EU deal is the latest in a long line of policies that go against the values and the principles that enable assistance to be provided," said MSF secretary general Jerome Oberreit.

"We cannot accept funding from the EU or the member states while at the same time treating the victims of their policies. It's that simple."

The Greek government vowed to step up deportations under the deal. Migration minister Yiannis Mouzalas said that thousands should be removed "within the next month and a half."

Greek MPs voted to change the rules on appeals last week to stop courts holding up deportations.

The EU threatened to suspend Greek citizens' travel rights if their government didn't stop the flow of refugees. The change came alongside reports of Turkish border guards shooting dead refugees at the Syrian border. And the bodies of 34 people—including 20 children—were found in the Sahara desert last week. They apparently starved to death earlier this month trying to migrate.

## It's OK to bash migrants, says EU court of justice

**EUROPEAN COURTS** ruled last week that Britain's government can restrict access to benefits for EU migrants.

It can now impose a "right to reside" test on migrant workers before they can claim child tax credits or child benefits.

The European Commission had challenged Cameron's plan, saying it was discriminatory and contrary to the spirit of EU directives.

But the EU's top judges accepted Cameron's absurd lie that migrants claiming benefits were a drain on state finances.

It could set a precedent for other rulings, such as on challenges to Cameron's four year "emergency brake" on EU migrants' benefits.

The court ruling agreed that "unequal treatment" of EU migrants was justified on the basis of "protecting a member state's finances."

Leading figures in both main parties and on both sides of the referendum have made clear that they want to restrict

migrants' rights.

The ruling from the court shows that staying in the EU won't stop them—only anti-racist resistance can.

**Socialist Worker**  
WHAT WE THINK

## LET'S TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ESTABLISHMENT'S CRISIS

**T**HE EUROPEAN Union (EU) referendum has exposed the depth of the crisis in the British political establishment—especially in the Tory party.

No one is more aware of that than David Cameron. His future—and that of his chosen successor George Osborne—hangs in the balance.

Socialist Worker has called for an anti-racist, internationalist Leave vote to break up the neoliberal EU and Fortress Europe. We went to press before the result.

If the vote is to Leave the EU, or even narrowly to Remain, Cameron will face calls to resign. If the late surge for Remain saves his bacon he will breathe a brief sigh of relief.

But Cameron and some of his top ministers have been calling each other liars on live TV.

That makes their task of uniting to attack the rest of us so much harder.

Whether Cameron limps on as an increasingly lame duck or starts a bitter leadership contest to replace him, these are bad times for the Tory government.

This is good news for the

workers' movement. Despite attempts to give the EU credit for workers' rights, everything we've ever won has come from fighting those at the top. Their weakness is our opportunity.

Yet much of the left has responded only with misery and pessimism.

They insist that a Leave vote would "let the Tories off the leash" and that our side is too marginal to oppose them.

They say that David Cameron's troubles can only help those who are even more right wing.

Such prophecies can be self-fulfilling.

When Labour and Green Party figures speak alongside the likes of



**Recent strikes in France have shown workers' power—that can happen here too**

depict the working class as male, old, white, stuck in the past, and nationalist.

It's a modern version of the "cloth cap and whipper" stereotype.

Racism is a problem, and needs to be consistently fought. But most workers are hostile to racism.

Racism comes from the top—a day doesn't go by without a nasty political speech or negative news story about immigration.

The working class is constantly shifting and changing. Workers are

Cameron, they are failing to build left wing opposition to him. When unions make joint statements with bosses it detracts from their task of building workers' strength to take bosses on.

No matter how bad the bosses' assault gets, the force that can change the world is the working class.

Workers will only gain strength by pursuing their own interests—not those of a "lesser evil" boss or Tory.

In any case the pessimism is misplaced.

Many of those who vote Leave will do so to hit back at an undemocratic elite. Many of those who vote Remain are motivated by the belief this will defend workers' and migrants' rights.

On both sides are tens of thousands who elected Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader, millions who donated for refugees and a majority who backed the junior doctors' strikes.

Recent strikes in France have shown the power workers can have. That can happen in Britain too.

We need unity in action and socialist politics—not despair and pessimism.

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Clapped out car journalists James May and Jeremy Clarkson argue for a Remain vote earlier this week



## ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



## Don't give up Leave voters to the racists

**LABOUR MP Jo Cox's horrible murder has haunted the final days of the European Union (EU) referendum campaign. It is now clear her attacker is an open Nazi.**

While on the Labour right, Cox campaigned for refugees and migrants. This no doubt made her a target.

Amid the official outrage, a weekend barely goes by without some fringe Nazi splinter group marching under massive state protection. Their anti-fascist opponents are often kettled and sometimes attacked by the police.

And to trace the roots of this atrocity, we should also remember the relentless media campaign of scapegoating refugees and migrants. Cox's husband Brendan Cox wrote a few weeks ago that politicians "in most cases are clueless on how to deal with the public debate."

"Petrified by the rise of the populists they try to neuter them by taking their ground and aping their rhetoric."

So it's not surprising that the referendum campaign has proved so awful. Faced with big business rallying in support of the EU, Boris Johnson and Michael Gove have moved onto Ukip's terrain and banged the anti-migrant drum.

The Financial Times newspaper noted that Cox's murder has pushed Johnson onto the defensive, embarrassed as he "finds himself yoked together with Nigel Farage".

Those in the Remain camp are now on the front foot. At the beginning of last week they were staring into the abyss. Anxious about Remain's slide in the polls, David Cameron turned to Labour to mobilise its nine million voters.

But numerous reports suggest that the overwhelmingly pro-EU Parliamentary Labour Party has been confronted with large numbers of working class people determined to vote Leave.

Remain supporters, both in Labour and further to the left, explain this by racism. This was summed up by Billy Bragg who tweeted last week, "Not every Leave voter is a racist, but every racist will vote Leave."

This is obvious nonsense—since when have David Cameron, Theresa May, and the Mail on Sunday newspaper been the migrants' friends?

In reality, Labour leaders have been mounting a double operation.

### Limiting

To their right, they've made concessions. Both deputy leader Tom Watson and shadow chancellor John McDonnell have talked about limiting the free movement of labour. To his credit, party leader Jeremy Corbyn has distanced himself from this, saying there can be no upper limit on EU immigration.

To their left, Labour has been arguing that a Remain vote is a vote against racism. Many on the radical left echo this, and Cameron and the Britain Stronger in Europe campaign have now taken this up.

Its absurdity has been underlined by the Doctors Without Borders (MSF) medical charity's decision to stop taking EU money. It said the EU is "intensifying attempts to push people and their suffering away from European shores".

Worse still, equating supporting Leave with racism consigns around half those voting to the camp of racism.

Since the polls suggest that the poorer are more likely to vote Leave, this view endorses the stereotype of white workers in particular as racists.

And it ignores something obvious about the referendum campaign. One of the main factors driving support for Leave is hatred of politicians and the establishment. Gove attempted to capitalise on this mood by attacking the "experts" backing Remain.

The Guardian newspaper's Polly Toynbee has tried to associate the anti-establishment climate with Cox's murder, complaining "'elites' are under attack in an anarchic way". But people have good reason to loathe the elites after a generation of neoliberalism and nearly a decade of crisis.

The danger with identifying these attitudes with racism is that it can become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

If no one seeks to turn the anti-establishment anger against the real culprits—capitalism and its institutions, including the EU—then it will be the likes of Johnson and Farage (or worse) who capitalise on it.

That's why those campaigning for a left exit from the EU are right.

# Welsh museum strike forces bosses to make concessions

Bosses at National Museum Wales have given ground—but some strikers want to keep up the fight, reports Nick Clark

**WELSH MUSEUM workers on all-out strike over weekend pay were voting on a new offer as Socialist Worker went to press. The ballot was set to end this Friday.**

PCS union members at National Museum Wales have been on indefinite strike since 28 April over bosses' plans to scrap weekend premium payments.

Scrapping the payments could mean some low-paid workers lose as much as £3,000 a year.

The offer doesn't save the premiums but does include large compensation buyouts, reductions in weekend work and a 4 percent pay rise.

### Buyout

The buyout is equal to five years' worth of weekend premium payments and can be taken as a lump sum, or spread over five years.

Workers also have the option to take the buyout over four years, with pension contribution deductions.

The offer is a huge improvement on previous ones and could not have been won without the all-out strike.

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka said, "This massively improved offer would never have been achieved without the principled and dignified stand taken by our members, backed by political support."

The offer is also an



**STRIKES FORCED museum bosses to make a new offer. Mark Serwotka (left) addressing strikers**

that workers no longer get recognition for weekend working once the buyouts have been paid in full.

New starters will not get the compensation, meaning a split workforce until all the existing workers have been paid their full buyouts.

There are also concerns that the offer could commit the PCS to working with bosses to make cuts.

### Unhappy

Striker Mike Corbridge is one of those who are unhappy with the offer.

He told Socialist Worker, "For people who have got mortgages and are struggling, five years will come

around. We'll have had our buyouts and we'll be left high and dry."

The size of the pay rise is offset by the fact that it comes after years of pay freezes.

Mike said, "We are getting a pay rise—but we haven't had a pay rise for years."

He said the offer was much better than workers could have got without striking—and thanked supporters for their solidarity throughout the strike.

He said, "I'm really pleased with the support that we've had."

"I hope we can support other people when they fight like we've had support from other places."

## Protest demands union member's reinstatement

**SUPPORTERS of victimised food worker Kumaran Bose protested in Leicester city centre last Saturday to demand his reinstatement.**

Kumaran was sacked by bosses at the Kettleby Foods factory, which is just outside Leicester, for trying to build the Bfawu food workers' union.

Hundreds of workers had flocked to join the union after factory owner Samworth Brothers announced cuts to weekend, night shift and overtime pay.

Kumaran was sacked



**Activists rally for Kumaran Bose in Leicester**

after speaking out at mass meetings organised by Bfawu. Now workers and supporters are fighting to get his job back.

Kumaran told Socialist

Worker, "The protest went well—there were a lot of people there."

"We also had a meeting with the trades council, which is supporting me,

afterwards." He added, "The campaign is doing well. Everyone has heard about it. I've still got an appeal hearing coming up, so we'll see what happens."

Supporters were set to hold a day of action in support of Kumaran this Sunday.

**Bfawu needs to win Kumaran's reinstatement—with strikes if necessary.**

Go to the Facebook page **Reinstate Kumaran Bose**. Join the protest on Sunday 12.30pm, Chetwode House, Melton Mowbray LE13 1GA

# Hospital is more 'like a warzone' than an A&E

Sadie Robinson talked to workers and patients about the scale of the crisis at one north London hospital

**THE ACCIDENT and emergency (A&E) department at North Middlesex Hospital could be shut because it is unsafe.**

This would be the first such closure in the history of the NHS—and a damning indictment of cuts and privatisation (see right).

Patients and workers at the hospital in Enfield, north London, have reacted with fear and anger to the news.

Patient Mary told Socialist Worker, "This is my nearest hospital. Where would I go if this closed?"

"They know what's the matter with me here, they know everything."

"Please don't send me to another hospital."

## Closed

A hospital worker told Socialist Worker, "It cannot be closed down, it's not possible."

"If there's a problem it doesn't mean it should be closed. If they close this, where are people going to go?"

Documents leaked to the Guardian newspaper exposed fears that patients are at "serious risk" of harm at the A&E.

NHS training agency Health Education England identified "extreme workload" and "poor levels of staffing" at the site.

Other failings included a

"culture of bullying" and "deficiencies in basic emergency department equipment".

Michelle, a paramedic with the London Ambulance Service, told Socialist Worker, "I usually go to North Middlesex at least once a shift, but I try not to because it's so depressing."

"Staff are completely demoralised and overworked. It's like a warzone rather than an A&E."

In February this year A&E staff were so overwhelmed that they asked patients to "go home unless you have a life-threatening illness".

Over 100 patients were told the wait to see a doctor would be eight hours for an adult and six for children.

Long waits were common at the A&E last week. Ali, who was there with an elderly relative, told Socialist Worker, "We've been here since six this morning and now it's 11.15am. That's not good—she's 85 years old."

## Killing

Mary had been waiting over an hour despite having an appointment. "My legs are killing me—I've got arthritis in both of them," she said.

"Every time I sit down I get pains. Every time I stand up I get pains. I'm fed up."

The leaked documents detail a meeting of hospital bosses last month. It said junior staff had been left in charge of the department, posing "a probable risk to patients".

The hospital denies that junior doctors have ever been left in charge of the A&E. But boss Julie Lowe said the department had just seven of the 15 A&E consultants it should have—and seven out of the 13 required middle-grade medics.

Michelle said, "Our ambulances can be queuing for over an hour to hand over a patient."

"It's meant to take no more than 15 minutes and hospitals get fined if it's longer. But fining hospitals that need more money doesn't help."

**AMBULANCES parked outside the A&E at North Middlesex Hospital**

## Tory cuts mean the NHS is in crisis—but closing hospitals is no answer

THE TORIES claim that leaving the European Union will put the NHS at risk. But cuts and privatisation are the real threat.

Like many hospitals, North Middlesex is a victim of a private finance initiative (PFI) deal. These leave hospitals struggling with a mountain of debt to private firms.

North Middlesex Hospital worker Clive said, "People should ask who is causing these problems."

## Suffering

"Why did they waste all this money building a new hospital rather than investing in frontline services that are suffering?"

"At night we can have ten or 15 people sleeping in the waiting area. Where is the minister of health? Do they come to the hospital to see what's going on? No they don't."

Clive said the government had the "wrong policies". "They should be blamed," he said.

Cuts elsewhere have piled pressure onto North Middlesex. The A&E department at nearby Chase Farm Hospital closed in December 2013.

Campaigners say North

Middlesex was not given resources to cope with the extra demand.

Jimmy is a patient at the hospital. He told Socialist Worker, "I've been coming here at least two times a month for 16 or 17 years. So I'm always seeing what the A&E is like. It has got more packed since Chase Farm closed."

"A lot of people are coming in for appointments. It's very crowded and stressful."

"There's always a backlog, appointments take a bit longer. You know you'll have an hour or half an hour extra to wait."

Wider cuts are putting more pressure on A&Es too. Paramedic Michelle said, "There's been a rise in numbers attending A&E."

## Returning

"Elderly people who can't look after themselves properly at home keep returning to A&E because social care has been cut."

"Cuts to mental health services leave people with nowhere to go—so they go to A&E. A crisis of staffing with GPs means it's harder to get a GP appointment, so people go to A&E."

Last week it was revealed that GP practices had stopped

registering new patients across an entire town, Hesse in Humberside, because of lack of staff.

The Tories' demand for the NHS to make billions of pounds in "savings" will only make things worse.

The General Medical Council doctors' body could remove North Middlesex Hospital A&E's 26 doctors if it remains unsafe, forcing it to close.

But this would put more patients at risk.

"The A&E is definitely unsafe," said Michelle. "But closing it will just put more pressure on others and move the problem elsewhere."

More resources, not more closures, is the solution.

Jimmy said, "The staff are trying their best. But it's very busy and they are understaffed."

"There should be more funding for this. They need more staff and more in the budget."

All names have been changed



Storm clouds gather over the hospital

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

**On other pages...**  
Why Southern railway gravy train has hit the buffers >>Page 17





# Hollande moves to ban demos in France

Workers in France are right to defy the government—and need to push union leaders too, says **Dave Sewell**

**THE FRENCH** Labour-type government was threatening to ban unions from demonstrating against its attack on workers' rights as **Socialist Worker** went to press. But it was facing threats of defiance.

The latest day of action against president Francois Hollande's Work Law saw a million people join a monster march in Paris last Tuesday.

More than 350 buses took people from all over France to the demonstration. Another 300,000 people marched in other towns and cities.

It was also a day of coordinated strikes, where other workers walked out alongside the sectors already on strike.

Trains were disrupted and uncollected litter piled up. The Eiffel Tower and Palace of Versailles, key tourist destinations, were closed.

The government and most of the media seized on the breaking of a window at the Necker children's hospital in Paris during clashes between police and some protesters.

## Protests

Prime minister Manuel Valls said this made it a "violent" demonstration and called on unions to stop holding any further protests.

He called on them to cancel the marches planned during the next days of action on Thursday and next Tuesday.

Valls also warned that if they didn't cancel them he would ban them. The threat provoked fury and defiance.

More than 120,000 people signed an online petition vowing, "I won't obey the ban on marching". Prominent intellectuals pledged, "We will continue to demonstrate".

CGT union leader Philippe Martinez said he had "no reason" to call off the demonstration.

The turnout on last week's demonstration showed the movement's resilience.

For all the scaremongering, a new poll this week showed 60 percent of people support the

## BACK STORY

**The French government's Work Law has sparked resistance**

- The Work Law would force workers to work longer hours
- It would allow bosses to undermine national union agreements. And it would give them powers to sack workers
- But powerful sections of workers have shut down whole sections of the economy
- Union leaders need to match their members' determination

movement—unchanged from before the demonstration.

Workers must defy Hollande and Valls' blackmail. As the Work Law nears its final stages in parliament it's crucial to keep up the pressure.

The bigger challenge is building the strikes.

Many workers came out on the day of action. Air France staff have called a new two-day strike next week.

Some workers remain on continuous strike, renewed by mass meetings every few days. It includes some post workers and bin workers.

But these continuous strikes are dwindling when they need to be spreading. Most strikes failed to be renewed over the past two weeks—including in the oil refineries.

Those sectors that were out for the longest faced isolation and hardship.

They received important solidarity donations, but union leaders didn't give the lead that could have motivated them to keep going.

They didn't call other workers out either, which would have spread the strikes and is necessary to win.

An even bigger strike wave to defend pensions was defeated in 2010 after union leaders called off action for negotiations.

The French working class has the power to win. But to do that it needs to develop its own independent leadership that can push forward when the union leaders falter.

## Iraq

THE IRAQI army bombards Fallujah

# Fallujah's people fear its 'liberators'

THOUSANDS OF people are fleeing the Iraqi city of Fallujah despite claims by the Iraqi government to have liberated it from Isis last Friday.

Around 30,000 people were reported to have fled the city last week. The United Nations believes over 80,000 people have left in recent weeks, with refugee camps struggling to cope.

The city was captured by Isis in 2014. Iraqi forces, backed by US and Australian air power, have been waging an assault on Fallujah for several weeks.

The army is still bombarding the city relentlessly despite the

tens of thousands of civilians still trapped there.

Karl Schembri of the Norwegian Refugee Council, which runs refugee camps in the area, said, "This comes after months of besiegement."

"They have been eating rotten dates and animal feed."

## Fighting

A report by Human Rights Watch earlier this month said there were "credible allegations" of abuses by Iraqi forces during the fighting.

These include allegations of summary executions, beatings, disappearances and mutilation

of corpses.

A number of people fleeing the city also claim to have been tortured by militias backed by the Iraqi government.

One of them, Abu Muhammad, said, "They would beat us with water pipes. They would take turns to torture us. My hands were tied behind my back, and one of the militants sat on my chest after he got tired of beating me."

"He just threw himself on me. I felt my ribs breaking. I screamed in pain. I spat blood. I asked for water, but I was denied even that."

**Nick Clark**

## FIGURE IT OUT

**510** Palestinian homes demolished by Israeli forces in the West Bank over the last year

**140** thousand Palestinians living in the West Bank do not have reliable access to drinking water

**53** percent of Palestinians in East Jerusalem are banned by law from being connected to the city's water network

## PALESTINE

# Israel funds more settlements

THE Israeli government has approved £12 million extra funding for illegal settlements in the West Bank.

Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu said the extra money was to "strengthen security". But some of the money will also be for grants to build hotels

in the settlements.

Settlements in the West Bank, which has been occupied by Israel since 1967, are illegal under international law.

But Israel continues to build settlements in the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem.

The funding comes as Israeli water

company Mekerot cut water supplies to the West Bank. The city of Jenin, which has a population of 40,000, had its supply cut in half.

Human rights group Al-Haq has estimated that 50 percent of Palestinian water supplies are diverted to Israeli settlements in the summer months.

## Don't vote for bosses

ALL EMPLOYEES at my work received an email from the general manager suggesting they vote to remain in the European Union (EU).

Most felt that the company was overstepping their remit. Others thought they were being bullied.

Others saw through it for what it was. The same bosses who try at every opportunity to cut pay, jobs and benefits are urging for a vote for Remain.

**Paul Packham**  
Chesterfield

## Brexit will help racists

THERE HAS been a significant, worrying development arising from the referendum campaign.

It has become acceptable to speak out against immigrants in a manner that did not happen to the same extent prior to the campaign.

Anti-immigration views are frequently the first issue on TV, radio and the press. Anti-immigration sentiment has become mainstream.

It has largely been driven by the main Leave campaigns. The pro-refugee Lexit campaign has had no impact on this development. If, regrettably, the Leave campaign wins it will claim that there is a legitimate democratic mandate for anti-immigrant policies.

It has never been easy to campaign for open borders, but if Leave wins it will get a whole lot harder.

**Jim Nichol,**  
North London  
**John Charlton**  
Newcastle

## Shame on Labour for its attacks on migrants

PLANNING THIS letter I wanted to make a point about the poisonous racism stirred up by both Remain and Leave campaigns in the EU referendum campaign.

The awful murder of Jo Cox MP has shown the danger of stirring up this hate.

The increasing racism coming from both sides of the Tory party is to be expected. But disgracefully it also comes from within the Labour Party and other so-called progressive forces. Even left wing MP and



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

# Don't condemn all fans for Russian fascists' violence

IT WAS an open secret that Russian far right ultras aimed to fight in the ongoing Euro 2016 tournament in France.

According to the Welsh security chief, the French state knew that they were coming to fight England fans in particular—but failed to act.

Fans' group leader and associate of Nazis Alexander Shrypgin was part of the Russian delegation, and had official accreditation for the Euros, though he has now been expelled by France.

Igor Lebedev, an MP from the ultra nationalist, Liberal Democratic Party, praised Russian fans' behaviour as defending the honour of their country.

Acquaintances in Marseille were shocked to see the carefree attitude of the CRS police, even when families were in danger.

Fans were left to fight for themselves, some even being arrested for self defence.

No one would defend the bottle throwing that could hurt innocent passers-by, or those who attack fans from other countries. And certain English hooligans bit off more than they could chew.

But the vast majority of English supporters hadn't come to fight. They were left to be attacked by the well organised Russian firm.

Now I fear a backlash from some clubs against Ultras.

Ultras come in many shapes and

sizes. Egyptian Ultras played a fantastic role in the revolution that toppled dictator Hosni Mubarak. Some gave their lives.

There are well documented cases of fascist Ultras, but most Ultras will reject the far right.

There has been some great solidarity with those who were attacked by the far right in Marseille.

Fans have launched a donation page for Stewart Gray, who was in a coma after being attacked.

Serious questions need asking of the authorities—and blanket condemnation of Ultras is no answer.

**Paul Sillett**  
East London

## The safety we fought for is under attack

THE CASE for breaking up the bosses' club of the EU is strong enough without having to exaggerate.

Joseph Choonara suggests that, "we have some of the best health and safety legislation in the world because we won it in the 1970s, a time of mass workers' struggles" (Socialist Worker, 8 June).

But the 1979 election of Margaret Thatcher led to a complete drying up of this legislation.

Since then only EU directives forced various governments to introduce



On the safe side

key legislation, saving thousands of lives and the health of millions of workers.

Unions have often had to take governments to European courts to force them to introduce

minimum EU standards.

The EU can't be relied on to protect safety. As a European Commission spokesman said, "Social Europe is history." The EU now has no programme for health and safety.

Both wings of the Tory Party are intent on destroying the legislation and its enforcement.

Workers and unions have a massive job on their hands to stop them.

Socialists arguing for an exit need to appreciate activists' genuine fears.

**John Murphy**  
Salford

Just a thought...

## The people gain in Spain

I READ with interest your article on the coming Spanish general election (Socialist Worker online).

The PP in the Spanish state is just as bad as the Tories—totally corrupt. Hopefully this election will see a government for the people and not the rich.

**Ian Connon**  
on Facebook

## Albanians are welcome here

THE mainstream media and politicians seem to have two stereotypes about Albania.

One is that it's a uniquely violent and corrupt society basically run by gangsters.

The other is that anyone saying they need to flee from there and seek asylum must be lying. Surely they can't have it both ways?

**Sam Dyson**  
Peterborough

## Up to you to count better

THIS IS a minor, picky point—please can we stop using the phrase "up to" in reports, as in "Up to 50 people attended..."?

"Up to 50" could mean two, couldn't it?

I'm not asking for comrades to carry out precise headcounts, but if "up to 50" actually means 30-odd or 40-odd, it'd be more useful to know that.

**Ben Drake**  
York

## What they don't show

I'M IN France to watch the Euros. There must be thousands of TV journalists here reporting on the matches—and the unfortunate violence.

But I don't understand why they don't turn their cameras around and film the strikes. They must not want you to see workers fighting back.

**Marina Saxby**  
Lille, France

## Double terror standard

IF JO Cox MP's killer had shouted "Allahu Akbar" not "Britain First" I bet the media, police and politicians would have treated it differently!

**Lou Laurence**  
Inverness



Hundreds of vehicles set out to give solidarity to refugees in Calais last Saturday. But the convoy was banned by the French authorities, reports **Dave Sewell**, pictures **Guy Smallman**

**T**RAFFIC SNAKED back in a long backlog from the ferry port at Dover in Kent last Saturday. Up to 1,000 protesters had occupied the road at the French border controls.

Over 200 vehicles from all over Britain had come to Dover as part of the Convoy to Calais. It was organised by a wide range of campaigns including Stand Up to Racism (STUR), the Peoples' Assembly and trade unions.

But the French state banned them from crossing the border.

Thousands of refugees are trapped by Britain's border controls in desperate conditions in Calais. Charities working with them are constantly in need of fresh supplies. So campaigners collected through union branches, community groups and local campaigns.

Over a megaphone Weyman Bennett from SUTR explained, "We've got enough aid here to fill up that warehouse in Calais."

"It's not enough that you lock people out to freeze and drown—when people come to bring them solidarity you send police at the border to stop them."

The convoy was blocked with just three days notice last week.

Some 9,000 people signed a petition to let it pass, and activists proceeded to the border to find it still closed to them.

Student Aishah from Manchester had come on one of the biggest delegations.

She told Socialist Worker, "It's infuriating—if we'd just been tourists they'd have let us through. They've stopped us because we were bringing aid."

Eurostar worker Arthur, whose RMT union branch backed the convoy, was angry at the hypocrisy.

"It's all about freedom of movement when they talk about the European Union referendum—but it's only when it suits them."

"How can they stop us taking aid to desperate people? It's disgusting," Sohail, a social worker

from Birmingham, said, "It's a denial of our human rights, and of everything they say about free movement."

When the convoy reached the ferry port, cops segregated it off into a separate lane, then let cars pass two by two.

French border police stamped their passports and refused them entry.

The convoy stopped to negotiate a collective response. Frustrated drivers and passengers left their vehicles and chanted, "We've got aid, let us through! Refugees are human too!"

Getting no response from police, they then marched on the border checkpoint and blocked the road.

**T**HE PROTEST was a defiant response to the brutality of closed borders—and it guaranteed the convoy media coverage that helped raise the issue of refugees.

Natalie, an office worker from Swindon, said, "We caused a lot of trouble for the French authorities after they shut us out—and that's a good thing."

The scale of support for the convoy had been clear that morning as most of its vehicles assembled in Whitehall in central London.

Some 185 cars, vans, buses and lorries, decked out with flags and placards, stretched down past Downing Street.

Around 200 people joined the send off. Others' joined the convoy in Dover.

Meru and her friends were there from Newcastle. They have been organising aid trips to Calais for about six months. "Someone has got to do this—it's the right thing," she said.

"The media are lying to people that refugees want to come here and take their benefits and houses, or to use the NHS. That's just rubbish."

James from Fareham near Portsmouth had been collecting in his church. He said the response had been "phenomenal".

John from Bolton Unison told a similar story.

"We had collections of aid throughout our branch and had lots of positive support," he said. "It's right to draw attention to the plight of refugees in Calais. "Our government should be doing more to take responsibility for the crisis it has helped cause."



# CONVOY



# TO CALAIS

**“How can they stop us taking aid to desperate people? It's disgusting”**

A student coach was organised from central London.

Shakira Martin, the National Union of Students (NUS) vice president for further education, told Socialist Worker, "Today's a really important day."

"We've come together for refugees and to let them know there are people here fighting for their human rights—and for them to be able to come to Britain."

In a short rally, Labour MP Diane Abbott said, "This convoy

is a symbol of hope and solidarity—and that a better world is possible."

There were send offs in several cities and towns on Friday night and Saturday morning. Bristol's new Labour mayor Martin Rees saw off the delegation there.

Nearly 40 people turned up to send off the Chesterfield delegation on Friday.

Union branches gave donations for the convoy to take.

Mayor Steve Brunt made an

impassioned plea for Britain to admit all the refugees in Calais.

On behalf of the council he said he "was proud to be part of this initiative".

In Sheffield over 40 people gathered outside the town hall to see off the convoy, including several councillors.

Councillor Nasima Akther thanked Stand Up to Racism, saying "there is no place for racism and hatred". "What has happened in Syria is not the refugees' fault,"

she said. Over 200 people attended a rally for the convoy in central London last Friday.

Speakers included Guardian journalist Gary Younge.

John Rees from the People's Assembly took on the scapegoating of migrants by racist politicians. "If there's one fundamental thing about human beings, it's that they move," he said.

**C**OLLECTING FOR the convoy had provided a chance to take on some of these arguments on the ground.

Beth, an activist in Labour left group Momentum from Warrington, said, "You'd get people coming up saying things like, 'we should look after our own'. But you quickly realise those people aren't doing anything to help what they call 'our own' either."

Ferrial from Harlow said, "We did get quite a bit of hostility from other drivers on the way here, some disgusting abuse."

But Sohail said, "We were just driving out of London, and someone ran up behind us and tapped on the window."

"This white woman gave us £20 and told us to give it to the people in Calais. That really made our day."

After cops made it clear the convoy wouldn't be allowed through, drivers turned back their cars and vans to the French embassy in London.

Hundreds chanted "Say it loud, say it clear—refugees are welcome here!" And "Brick by brick, wall by wall, racist borders have to fall!"

Maria from London said, "We're showing them that it's not acceptable to try and make the problem invisible."

"We won't accept that the refugees in Calais have to live in those conditions, and we are going to shout about it."

Norwich shop worker Lucinda was determined to keep fighting.

"We have to do everything we can," she said. "Nothing is going to change until ordinary people get up and do something."

"It's important to get people talking about it—anything that makes the issue harder to ignore."

Michelline Safi Ngongo, a Labour councillor in Islington, north London, agreed. "They are doing this to make us get fed up and stop," she said.

"Instead, when we go home we have to ask ourselves what we can do next to show our solidarity."

For Natalie, the convoy had given the movement something to build on. "We've showed a lot of solidarity," she said. "It was great to see so many people travel all that way, and so many organisations come



together in unity. "We've got to keep that going and keep up the fight."

**S**OME AID did get through on the day (see box). Many groups did manage to take their donations to Calais on second attempts—starting the next day on Sunday.

Clare Mosely from charity Care 4 Calais told Socialist Worker, "They brought a load of food which is brilliant, especially because it's Ramadan."

"The refugees like to cook their own food in the evening to break the fast."

"They brought a lot of shoes and second hand clothes which is really good because our stocks are running low."

"But we know there's so much more stuck in London that we'll need to get brought over."

Local groups are setting up report-back meetings on their return to spread the word and build the movement.

Sohail said, "Social workers in the West Midlands donated so much. We've taken photos and videos of what's happened today that we can take back and show them."

The Stand Up to Racism summit on 8 October is also crucial.

Shakira said, "This is just the beginning of a long fight."

"Coming back, I'd advise students to set up Stand Up to Racism groups on campus, to campaign locally and be part of the bigger movement."

Weyman announced over the megaphone, "The solution is simple—we want those people over there brought over here."

To cheers he added, "We're not going to stop. We're not going to give up."

"You can't stop solidarity." Sign the open letter to let aid into Calais [bit.ly/28lqg1J](http://bit.ly/28lqg1J)

## Activists got some aid through

SOME ACTIVISTS did manage to get through, along with the aid that was in their cars and the convoy's lorry.

Socialist Worker cartoonist Tim Sanders was one of them. After unloading donations at the Care 4 Calais charity's warehouse, he went to meet the refugees in the "jungle" shantytown.

Tim said, "The jungle is apparently filling up again fast, and looks set to return to a population of 7,000 or more in the coming weeks."

"There are rats everywhere. Residents told us the cops teargas them every day in the late afternoon."

"But they are very resilient, and have organised shops and restaurants of wood and tarpaulin."

The majority of those currently in the jungle are young men, but there are also many women and older people and around 700 children. Some 150 children are there unaccompanied, vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

Tim said, "We went up and spoke to a young boy who was flying a kite. He had come from Afghanistan, and made his way to the jungle more or less by himself."

"It's very upsetting to see people having to live like that. We met a Yemeni man who told us this is a bad place and they don't want to be there."



Union members took part

The convoy in Whitehall



WHAT WE  
STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING  
CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

## REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO  
PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

## INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

## THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

## SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS

## After the EU referendum—where next for the fight against the Tories?

## ABERDEEN

Thu 7 Jul, 6pm,  
The Snug, Ma Cameron's,  
6-8 Little Belmont St,  
AB10 1JG

## BARNLEY

Thu 7 Jul, 6.30pm,  
YMCA, Blucher St,  
S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM:  
CITY CENTRE

Wed 6 Jul, 7pm,  
Birmingham LGBT Centre,  
38/40 Holloway Circus,  
B1 1EQ

## BRADFORD

Thu 7 Jul, 7pm,  
Glyde House,  
Little Horton Lane  
(opposite the ice  
rink), BD5 0BQ

## BRIGHTON

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Ship St, BN1 1AF

## BURNLEY

Wed 6 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Red Triangle Cafe,  
160 St James's St,  
BB11 1NR

## CAMBRIDGE

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
St Paul's, Hills Rd,  
CB2 1JP

## CARDIFF

Wed 6 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Cathays Community Centre,  
Cathays Terrace,  
CF24 4HX

## CHESTERFIELD

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Chesterfield Library,  
New Beetwell St, S40 1QN

## COVENTRY

Wed 6 Jul, 7.30pm,  
West Indian Centre,  
159 Spon St, CV1 3BB

## DUDLEY

Wed 6 Jul, 8pm,  
The What Centre,  
23 Coventry St, DY8 1EP

## EDINBURGH

Wed 29 Jun, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

## ESSEX

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Rainsford Rd, CM1 2QL

## EXETER

Thu 7 Jul, 7pm,  
Exeter Community Centre,  
17 St. Davids Hill, EX4 3RG

## HARLOW

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
1 Church Leys, CM18 6BX

## HOME COUNTIES

Thu 14 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Trinity Church Hall (upstairs),  
1 Beaconsfield Rd (near  
St Albans City station),  
AL1 3RD

## HULL

Thu 21 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Relax Coffee House,  
Newland Ave, HU5 3BG

## LANCASTER

Thu 7 Jul, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Meeting House Lane,  
LA1 1TX

## LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Thu 7 Jul, 7pm,  
The Swarthmore  
Education Centre,  
2-7 Woodhouse Square,  
LS3 1AD

## LEICESTER

Wed 6 Jul, 7pm,  
Leicester LGBT Centre,  
15 Wellington St, LE1 6HH

## LIVERPOOL

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
The Caledonia,  
22 Caledonia St,  
L7 7DX

LONDON: BRENT  
AND HARROW

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
The Pepperpot Centre,  
1a Thorpe Close,  
Ladbroke Grove (very  
close to the station),  
W10 5XL

## LONDON: BRIXTON

Wed 6 Jul, 7pm,  
Vida Walsh Centre,  
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd,  
facing Windrush Square),  
SW2 1EP

## LONDON: EALING

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
West London Trade  
Union Club,  
33-35 High St,  
Acton, W3 6ND

## HARLOW

After Chilcot, blood on  
Blair's hands—what really  
happened in Iraq?

Thu 14 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Ship St, BN1 1AF

## BRISTOL

Do all revolutions  
end in tyranny?

Wed 6 Jul, 7.30pm,  
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,  
BS1 4QA

## CAMBRIDGE

After Chilcot, blood on  
Blair's hands—what really  
happened in Iraq?

Thu 14 Jul, 7.30pm,  
CB2 Cafe,  
5/7 Norfolk St,  
CB1 2LD

## CHESTERFIELD

A rebel's guide to Trotsky

Thu 14 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Chesterfield Library,  
New Beetwell St,  
S40 1QN

## COLCHESTER

The case against  
immigration controls

Wed 29 Jun, 7.30pm,  
The Odd One Out,  
28 Mersea Rd,  
CO2 7ET

## COVENTRY

After Chilcot, blood on  
Blair's hands—what really  
happened in Iraq?

Wed 13 Jul, 7.30pm,  
West Indian Centre,  
159 Spon St,  
CV1 3BB

## GLASGOW: SOUTH

The politics of food

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Govanhill Baths,  
99 Calder St,  
G42 7RA

## LONDON: HACKNEY

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
The Round Chapel,  
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner  
Lower Clapton Rd),  
E5 0PU

## LONDON: HARINGEY

Wed 6 Jul, 7.30pm,  
St John Vianney Church Hall,  
386 West Green Rd (corner  
Vincent Rd), N15 3QH

## LONDON: ISLINGTON

Thu 7 Jul, 7pm,  
The Old Fire Station,  
84 Mayton St, N7 6QT

## LONDON: KINGSTON

Thu 14 Jul, 7pm,  
Kingston Quaker Centre,  
Fairfield East, KT1 2PT

## LONDON: LEWISHAM

Wed 6 Jul, 7.30pm,  
West Greenwich Community  
and Arts Centre,  
141 Greenwich High Rd  
(near Greenwich main  
line and DLR station),  
SE10 8JA

## LONDON: NEWHAM

Wed 13 Jul, 7pm,  
Stratford Advice Arcade,  
107-109 The Grove (next  
to Morrisons car park),  
E15 1HP

## LONDON: SOUTHWARK

Thu 21 Jul, 7pm,  
Camberwell Leisure  
Centre (Room 2),  
Artichoke Place (off  
Camberwell Church St),  
SE5 8TS

## LONDON: HACKNEY

What would a socialist  
society look like?

Thu 14 Jul, 7.30pm,  
The Round Chapel,  
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner  
Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0PU

## LONDON: ISLINGTON

After Chilcot, blood on  
Blair's hands—what really  
happened in Iraq?

Thu 14 Jul, 7pm,  
The Old Fire Station,  
84 Mayton St, N7 6QT

## LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

What would a socialist  
society look like?

Wed 6 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Quaker Meeting House,  
1a Jewel Rd, E17 4QU

## MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

Muhammad Ali—a fighter  
against racism and war

Wed 6 Jul, 7pm,  
Chorlton Central Church,  
Barlow Moor Rd, M21 8BF

## MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

Marxism and ecology

Thu 7 Jul, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

MANCHESTER: LONGSIGHT  
AND LEVENSHULME

Racism, resistance  
and revolution

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Inspire, 747 Stockport Rd,  
M19 3AR

## MEDWAY

After Chilcot, blood on  
Blair's hands—what really  
happened in Iraq?

Thu 21 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Nucleus Arts Centre  
(Conference Room),  
272 High St,  
ME4 4BP

LONDON: TOWER  
HAMLETS

Wed 6 Jul, 7pm,  
Oxford House, Derbyshire St  
(opposite Bethnal Green Rd  
Tesco), E2 6HG

## MANCHESTER

Wed 13 Jul, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
6 Mount St,  
M2 5NS

## MEDWAY

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Nucleus Arts Centre  
(Conference Room),  
272 High St,  
ME4 4BP

## NEWCASTLE

Thu 7 Jul, 7pm,  
Broadacre House,  
Market St, NE1 6HQ

## NORWICH

Thu 14 Jul, 7.30pm,  
The Vauxhall Centre,  
Johnson Place,  
NR2 2SA

## NOTTINGHAM

Wed 13 Jul, 7.30pm,  
International Community  
Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd,  
NG1 3FN

## OXFORD

Wed 6 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Restore, Manzil Way (off  
Cowley Rd), OX4 1YH

## POOLE

Mon 18 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Butler & Hops,  
88 High St, BH15 1DB

## NEWCASTLE

After Chilcot, blood on  
Blair's hands—what really  
happened in Iraq?

Thu 14 Jul, 7pm,  
Broadacre House,  
Market St,  
NE1 6HQ

## NORWICH

France—workers and  
students v the government

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Vauxhall Centre,  
Johnson Place,  
NR2 2SA

## NOTTINGHAM

The Chartists—Britain's first  
working class movement

Wed 6 Jul, 7.30pm,  
International  
Community Centre,  
61b Mansfield Rd,  
NG1 3FN

## OXFORD

After Chilcot, blood on  
Blair's hands—what really  
happened in Iraq?

Wed 13 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Restore,  
Manzil Way  
(off Cowley Rd),  
OX4 1YH

## PLYMOUTH

After Chilcot, blood on  
Blair's hands—what really  
happened in Iraq?

Thu 7 Jul, 7pm,  
Quaker House,  
74 Mutley Plain,  
PL4 6LF

## PORTSMOUTH

Why we say open the  
borders—let the refugees in

Wed 6 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Southsea Community Centre,  
St Paul's Square,  
PO5 4EE

## PORTSMOUTH

Wed 29 Jun, 7.30pm,  
Southsea Community Centre,  
St Paul's Square,  
PO5 4EE

## SOUTHAMPTON

Wed 6 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Central Baptist Church Hall,  
Devonshire Rd,  
SO15 2GY

## ROTHERHAM

Wed 13 Jul, 7pm,  
Talbot Lane Methodist  
Church Centre,  
Moorgate St, S60 2EY

## SWANSEA

Thu 7 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Brynmill Community Centre,  
St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

## TELFORD

Thu 21 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Carriages, The Parade,  
Wellington, TF1 1PY

## WIGAN

Wed 6 Jul, 7pm,  
Little Fifteen pub,  
17-19 Wallgate (opposite  
Wigan Post Office),  
WN1 1LD

WOLVERHAMPTON  
AND WALSALL

Wed 6 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Wild Bytes Cafe,  
Darlington St,  
WV1 4HW

## YORK

Wed 29 Jun, 7.30pm,  
Sea Horse Hotel,  
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

{ SOCIALIST WORKER  
PUBLIC MEETINGS }

## LONDON: SOUTHWARK

After Chilcot, blood on  
Blair's hands—what really  
happened in Iraq?

Thu 7 Jul, 7pm,  
Camberwell Leisure Centre  
(Room 2), Artichoke Place  
(off Camberwell Church St),  
SE5 8TS

## WAKEFIELD

Muhammad Ali—a fighter  
against racism and war

Thu 7 Jul, 7pm,  
Lightwaves Centre,  
Lower York St, WF1 3LJ

{ SOCIALIST WORKER  
BRANCH MEETINGS }

Weekly meetings to discuss  
political issues and our local  
interventions. All welcome.

## ABERDEEN

What do socialists say about  
the mental health crisis?

Thu 14 Jul, 6pm,  
The Snug, Ma Cameron's,  
6-8 Little Belmont St,  
AB10 1JG

## BOLTON

Muhammad Ali—a fighter  
against racism and war

Thu 7 Jul, 6.30pm,  
Bolton Socialist Club,  
16 Wood St (off  
Bradshawgate), BL1 1DY

## BRADFORD

Muhammad Ali—a fighter  
against racism and war

Thu 14 Jul, 7pm,  
Glyde House,  
Little Horton Lane  
(opposite the ice rink),  
BD5 0BQ

{ MOVEMENT  
EVENTS }

## DORCHESTER

After the EU referendum—  
where next for the fight  
against the Tories?

Sat 9 Jul, 1.30pm,  
Colliton Club,  
Colliton Park,  
DT1 1XJ.

Organised by Dorset Socialists

## LONDON

Fascist EDL not  
welcome in London

Sat 16 Jul, 12 noon,  
Central London.  
[uaf.org.uk](http://uaf.org.uk)

## NOTTINGHAM

A Very Capitalist  
Condition—A History and  
Politics of Disability

Thu 14 Jul, 4.30pm,  
Five Leaves Bookshop,  
14a Long Row W, NG1 2DH

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Email  
[enquires@swp.org.uk](mailto:enquires@swp.org.uk)  
Post PO Box 71327,  
London SE11 9BW



# Michael Moore is taking aim through rose-tinted glasses

US radical director Michael Moore's film *Where to Invade Next?* makes some serious points, but badly idealises European society, writes **Simon Shaw**

**MICHAEL MOORE'S** previous documentaries have raged against the Iraq war, the lack of gun control and the collapse of working class US cities. But his latest film is his most upbeat.

*Where to Invade Next?* is a jolly tour across Europe—with a brief stop-off in Tunisia.

It asks why European countries have adopted “American values” such as democracy and free education, while the US has sold out to the market.

Moore's celebration of all things “European” is perhaps best summed up when we are presented with shots of Italians walking past fountains and eating ice creams.

He asks, “Why do all Italians always look like they have just had sex?”

Moore's answer is that the Italian state gives them 80 days paid holiday a year, while in the US most workers get none.

But *Where to Invade Next?* does make some serious points. It shows up the flaws in many US policies by looking at real-life counter-examples.

For instance, the US war on drugs hasn't just failed, it has almost exclusively targeted African-American people.

Meanwhile in Portugal there are no drug laws.

## Chemicals

US children are fed chemicals made to look like food—in France some of the best kitchens are in primary schools, even in the poorest towns.

In Norway high risk inmates have keys for their cells and wardens greet them with a specially recorded song.

Their rates of reoffending are around 20 percent compared to 70 percent in the US.

Finland boasts the best education system in the world.

Students are never given homework and the emphasis is on humanity not

testing. Moore contrasts this with scenes of US students being searched by armed guards.

*Where to Invade Next?* does not include Britain in its itinerary, as Moore argues Britain is too similar to the US.

This is driven home during his visit to Slovenia, where university students pay no fees

heart of their work.

This new style was minimalist and focussed on the process, not the final product.

Keith Arnatt's *Art As an Act of Retraction* and John Hilliard's *Camera Recording its Own Condition* (pictured above) exemplified this.

Their attempts to break down traditional artistic boundaries

and get a high quality education.

Moore is undoubtedly on our side. In interviews for the film he has said Tony Blair bears more responsibility for the tragedy in Iraq than former US president George Bush.

## Weeds

Moore says he gave the mission “liberal cover”.

He has also admitted that the film “ignores the weeds” in Europe—and this is the film's major flaw.

By focusing on the European

## KEITH ARNATT, *Art as an Act of Retraction* (above)

1971 Tate. © Keith Arnatt Estate

## JOHN HILLIARD, *Camera Recording its Own Condition* (left)

# A history of conceptual art in Britain

## EXHIBITION

### CONCEPTUAL ART IN BRITAIN 1964–1979

Tate Britain, London SW1P 4RG. Until 29 August

**THIS EXHIBITION** takes a look at how artists in the 1960s began to abandon traditional realist art and put abstract ideas at the

didn't just reflect 1960s psychedelia.

Through questioning the purpose of art, many in this new generation produced radical, political art on issues from Northern Ireland to women's liberation.

The style won't appeal to all, but it reflects an important political and artistic period.



MICHAEL MOORE is off on tour in *Where to Invade Next?*

## EVENT

### VESSEL

Director Diana Whitten  
Abortion Rights screening  
Friday 8 July, 7pm  
Genesis Cinema, London E1 4UJ

THE POWERFUL new documentary *Vessel* tells the story of Dr Rebecca Gomperts and a group of campaigners providing women with abortions on a Netherlands ship in international waters.

This was the beginning of the *Women on Waves* and later *Women on Web* projects. They offer women medical advice and support in places where abortion access is banned or limited.

The anguished calls and

Dr Rebecca Gomperts

emails to the ship from women show their impact. The film points to the opportunities women have to access an early medical abortion through Misoprostol pills in places where abortion is criminalised.

Pro-choice activists are planning to use drones to drop the pills in Northern Ireland. Campaigners across Ireland are demanding the right to legal abortions.

Dr Gomperts is travelling to London to speak at a screening of the film to raise money for Abortion Rights and support the campaign.

**Judith Orr**

[abortionrights.org.uk](http://abortionrights.org.uk)

## TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- The EU—a left case for exit**  
Joseph Choonara
- A Rebel's Guide to James Connolly**  
Seán Mitchell
- School's Out!**  
Stephen Cunningham and Michael Lavalette
- A People's History of Modern Europe**  
William Pelz
- Food Worth Fighting For**  
Josh Sutton

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Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE



**O**N THE first Pride demonstration in London in 1972 cops openly shouted homophobic abuse and were aggressive towards the 2,000 marchers.

LGBT+ people faced legal discrimination at work and restrictions on their personal lives.

Today the Metropolitan Police are still out in force on Pride—on their own contingent.

Alongside them march corporate delegations, from Starbucks coffee to Barclays bank, who “celebrate” sexual diversity in the workplace.

Yet one in eight lesbian, gay and bisexual people and 75 percent of trans people are recorded as suffering hate crimes each year.

Homophobia and LGBT+ oppression still run through our society. The horrific killings in Orlando earlier this month were horrific examples of this.

Homophobia exists because capitalism represses and distorts human sexuality.

Capitalism is based on a tiny minority of capitalists exploiting the majority of workers in order to make their profits.

In this endless drive for profit capitalism tries to turn everything into a commodity that can be bought and sold on the market—including human sexuality.

But sexuality is something that is intrinsic to human beings.

While sex itself can be an important aspect of sexuality, it is also about a much broader range of intimate relationships that humans can form.

In early human societies people weren’t governed by disciplined work hours.

And unlike some animals humans aren’t restricted by a “mating season”.

This means that humans have evolved with the ability to have sex for pleasure rather than just reproduction.

With greater leisure time humans could form flexible and diverse relationships with one another.

### Gains

People’s sexual lives are more openly diverse now than they were 20 years ago, partly because of the gains that have been won through struggle.

But capitalism means that sexuality is still alienated from us.

Under capitalism sexuality is dehumanised, repackaged and sold back to us as a commodity.

We’re told that we can satisfy our needs and desires by simply buying the latest product.

But our sexual needs cannot be satisfied like this.

To form fulfilling and intimate relationships means seeing other people as human beings—not just objects of our



LAST YEAR’S London Pride march PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

# HOW CAN WE WIN SEXUAL LIBERATION?

People have always expressed their sexualities in different ways throughout history. Yet we can often feel alienated from our own sexualities today. **Tomáš Tengely-Evans** says fighting oppression means changing society



At a vigil for Orlando victims PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

sexual desires.

People do have more sexual choices—sex is no longer always supposed to be exclusively heterosexual and confined to marriage.

But capitalism puts immense stresses and strains on working class people’s lives, which makes it hard to have satisfying sexual relationships.

Capitalism then plugs the gap with the oppressive and exploitative sex industry.

It has adopted the language



**Capitalist society distorts our relationships and sexualities**

of liberation and diversity, repackaged it and turned it into a commodity.

So we still get a narrow and compartmentalised take on sexuality.

The National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles found that some 6 percent of people defined themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual.

Other polls have found that up to twice that number have experienced sexual intimacy with or expressed desire for

someone of the same sex.

This shows that sexuality isn’t something that can neatly fit into any box. But our sexualities and relationships are distorted by the way they are shaped by capitalism.

This sort of repression can put human beings under immense mental strain.

It can force people into leading double lives as they struggle with conforming to a narrow vision of sexuality.

That’s partly why in the 1960s and 70s the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) put great emphasis on “coming out” as a political act and a rejection of living in secret.

Their fight came alongside other huge struggles against racism, sexism and the war on Vietnam.

It was a break with the Homophile Movement that came before the 1960s, which put the emphasis on respectability and assimilating with the gender norms under capitalism.

**N**OW some LGBT+ groups positively look to defying gender norms as a political act.

While being openly LGBT+ is now widely accepted, alienation under capitalism still means that sexuality is distorted and repressed.

It is now reported that the Orlando gunman Omar Mateen had repressed “homosexual tendencies”.

But LGBT+ oppression hasn’t always existed—and it can be overcome.

Like other human needs, sexuality has been shaped by how production has been organised in society.

### Controlled

The key institution that has shaped—and controlled—our sexuality is the family.

The family’s role in class society has been to reproduce the next generation of workers.

What has been sexually permissible has been governed by property relations.

But this hasn’t always meant that only heterosexual relations were accepted.

The revolutionary author Leslie Feinberg has written about how a number of gender identities and sexual orientations have existed throughout history.

In Ancient Greece and Rome sex between men was accepted as normal.

Production was based on slavery so the family wasn’t as central to producing the next generation of labourers.

But as the Roman Empire collapsed a new way of organising production—feudalism—emerged in Europe.

Instead of slavery, production was based around a peasantry working on the land.

The family became the central unit of production—and sexual acts that could not lead

to children were outlawed.

Even so, same-sex relationships didn’t disappear.

There is evidence that gay subcultures existed in some European cities.

The forms which the family has taken has changed throughout history.

But under capitalism the nuclear family has been dominant.

This is key to understanding the roots of LGBT+ oppression in the 19th century.

**A**S capitalism pushed women, men and children into the factory, the working class family came under great strain.

By the late 19th century this frightened the new capitalist class, who needed the family to produce the next generation of workers.

This wasn’t just driven from the top—many working class people also wanted some respite from the drudgery of factory work.

But the new nuclear family was modelled on the ruling class family, with a separation between work and the home.

This is where the traditional gender roles of male breadwinners and female caregivers comes from—and also underlies women’s oppression today.

Caring for children was pushed into the private home and became individual women’s responsibility—gender roles became stricter.

Women were denied any sexual autonomy

Strict moral codes were forged to govern working class life.

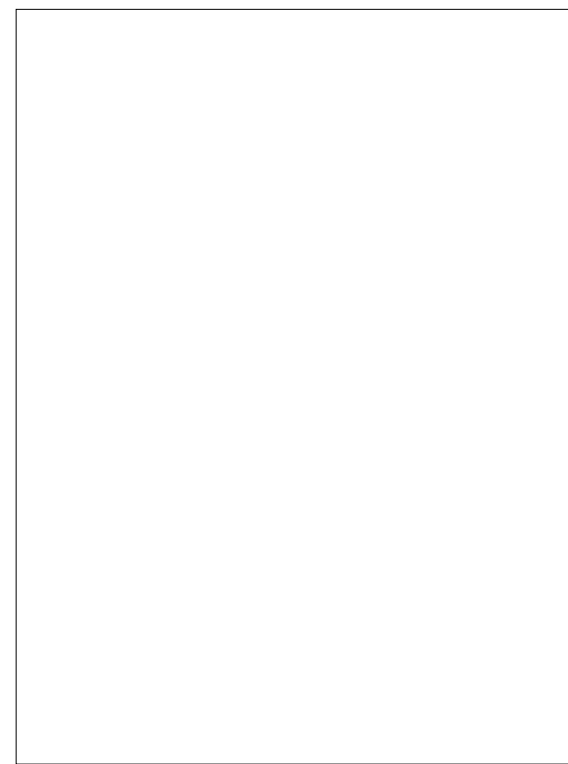
Even the factory legislation of the 1890s that officially stopped women working down mines and child labour were partly driven by Victorian fear of sexual promiscuity.

### Clothes

The Sadler Report of 1832 into child labour had slammed Northern mills as hotbeds of sexual promiscuity as women wore less clothes in the sweltering conditions.

This is also when the term “homosexual” first emerged and the first homophobic legislation was passed to defend the nuclear family.

The family has obviously changed since the 19th century and people have won greater sexual freedoms through



PICTURE: JESS FLUO

**LGBT+ people faced police harassment in the 70s (top) The fight for liberation is part of the fight against capitalism (above)**

struggles in the 1960s and 70s.

But so long as human beings remain alienated from their sexuality there won’t be genuine sexual liberation. We cannot predict precisely what sexuality or relationships would be like in a socialist society that doesn’t distort and repress people’s sexuality.

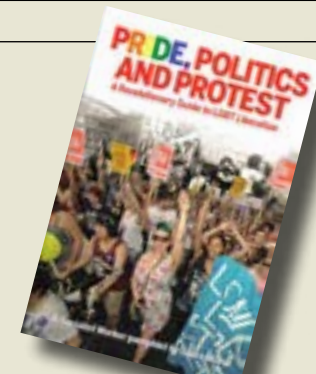
Sexual liberation will come as part of a society that allows for much more freedom and liberation in general.

## READ MORE

● **Pride, politics and protest** by Laura Miles £3.00

● **The origin of the family, private property and the state** by Frederick Engels £4.06 or available online at [bit.ly/1MYrTb](http://bit.ly/1MYrTb)

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to [bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)



# Political solutions needed for environmental crisis

New technical solutions can hide the fact society needs to change fundamentally to save the planet, says **Martin Empson**

ALMOST EVERY day there is bad news about climate change. As emissions rise, carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere is reaching new peaks.

So any news that indicates it might be possible to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is enthusiastically celebrated.

Now scientists have shown it’s possible to turn carbon dioxide into stone by pumping the gases into volcanic rock.

This particular experiment, called Carbfix, took place in Iceland and is a major achievement. Scientists accelerated a process that would naturally take hundreds of thousands of years.

But there is a problem with this, and other technological solutions.

They help to send the message that “something is being done” about climate change, and they do it in a way that suggests nothing needs to fundamentally change about how society organises.

### Emissions

Firstly there is the question of scale. The Icelandic test project has been scaled up to handle 10,000 tonnes of CO2 a year. But this is a fraction of the amount of emissions that are being made.

The Drax power station in North Yorkshire alone produces an annual 20 million tonnes of CO2—2,000 times more than Carbfix can currently handle.

Secondly, the environmental crisis that we are experiencing now is not simply about climate change.

Fundamentally it is about how our society is destabilising the natural cycles of environmental systems.

We see continued deforestation, leading to further increases in emissions and a reduction in the planet’s ability to absorb carbon dioxide.

**THE CARBFIX plant experiment is a major achievement—but it isn’t the solution we need**

PICTURE: ORIS

## READ MORE

### Marxism and Ecology

A Socialist Worker pamphlet by Martin Empson. Cover price £3 or ten copies for £20

Phone 020 7840 5600 to place your order



This is accelerating a biodiversity crisis, which some writers have called the “sixth mass extinction”.

Pollution of rivers and oceans continues as our waste, particularly run off from agriculture, enters water systems.

The most frightening consequences are the dead zones where pollution has wiped out nearly all life.



**Capitalism’s profit quest depletes and degrades the natural world**

Too often these environmental problems are reduced to technology. But technology is not at fault.

The problem is the way that capitalism uses it. Capitalism is a system that is driven by the need to make profit, for the sake of profit.

Thus the interaction between human society and the natural world is an unequal exchange.

The very nature of production under capitalism overwhelms the planet’s capacity to absorb the outputs from that production.

In its quest to maximise profits, capitalism depletes and degrades the natural world, without looking to the consequences. This is why, despite mountains of scientific evidence that we need to stop burning fossil fuels, the Tory government is encouraging fracking once again.

We already have the technical solutions.

We know that switching to renewable energy, reducing energy use and transforming our travel, building and agriculture can lead to huge emissions reductions.

The barrier to do this is not scientific, it is political.

In the face of growing environmental disaster we have to increase the struggle against a system that is destroying the ability of the planet to support human life.

Projects like Carbfix look like convenient short cuts. But at best they are about continuing doing what we are already doing.

What we need is much more fundamental change.



# Rally demands justice for Orgreave

by SADIE ROBINSON

**EX-MINERS, trade unionists and campaigners gathered at Orgreave in Sheffield last Saturday to remember the Battle of Orgreave.**

More than 100 people joined a rally and march to mark the 32nd anniversary of the battle, when police attacked striking miners



Abrar Javid, one of the Rotherham 12

picketing a coking plant at Orgreave. The protest was called by the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign.

Protesters demanded an inquiry into policing at Orgreave and afterwards, when cops tried to frame miners for riot.

## Striking

Terry Dunn was a striking miner picketing on the day.

He was sent to hospital with broken ribs after police and horses attacked.

He told Socialist Worker, "I was shocked at the amount of violence—the dogs and the horses. They weren't just walking, they were charging at you."

"They shepherd us in, there's no two ways about it. It was the 100th day of the strike. They wanted us there for that day to break it."

"We're still here and we're going to get an inquiry hopefully. South Yorkshire Police need to be exposed for their lies."

Andy Summer was also at Orgreave. "South Yorkshire



CAMPAIGNERS RALLY in Orgreave

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Police are responsible for wrongful arrest and mass affray at Orgreave," he told Socialist Worker.

"The corruption within the force needs examining."

The rally held a minute's silence to remember Labour MP Jo Cox, who was murdered in Birstall, West York-

shire, last week (see page 3).

The rally's chair said campaigners "stand in solidarity with the tradition of anti-fascism that goes right back to Cable Street."

Bfawu union president Ian Hodson said Orgreave was "unfinished business."

"What's happened since is

only proof that this was about the determination of the state to attack working people," he said.

Like many at the rally, Hodson said the recent inquests into those who died in the Hillsborough disaster gave hope that Orgreave could be re-examined.

Hillsborough campaigner Margaret Aspinall spoke to the rally. "It took us 27 years to get where we are, but we got where we are because of unity," she said.

"They will do their best to wear you down. Please do not give up."

## Brutality

Lawyer Gareth Peirce, who supported miners in the aftermath of Orgreave, sent a message to the rally.

She described the "wanton brutality" of police who saw miners as the "enemy within".

"It was a miracle that nobody died that day," the message said.

Activists from the Rotherham 12 Defence Campaign, for people arrested on an anti-fascist protest, joined the march.

Abrar Javid, one of the 12, told Socialist Worker, "We're here because we believe that the working class should not tolerate being subdued and treated like second class citizens by the establishment."

For further information go to [otjc.org.uk](http://otjc.org.uk)

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# Why has Southern railway gravy train hit the buffers?

Thousands of services cancelled and many more delayed, but it's green lights all the way for bosses' perks. **Raymie Kiernan** sees the hand of the Tories behind moves to driver-only trains

**DAVID BROWN** has a cushy job. His rail company cancelled over 2,000 trains in four weeks and ran one in five trains late. Yet he still got paid £2.1 million in a year.

The Go-Ahead Group chief has made a career out of screwing public transport budgets.

He now controls a consortium with a very favourable rail franchise in the south east of England and gets special favours from the Tory government.

In return Go-Ahead's subsidiary is at war with unions over driver-only trains, known as DOO.

Extending DOO (see below) is a priority for the Tories—and bosses hope it will boost their profits.

Go-Ahead runs Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), a rail franchise that includes Gatwick Express, Southern, Great Northern and Thameslink.

It's a rail franchise like no other. The Department for Transport (DfT) keeps the revenue and pays the firm a fixed fee.

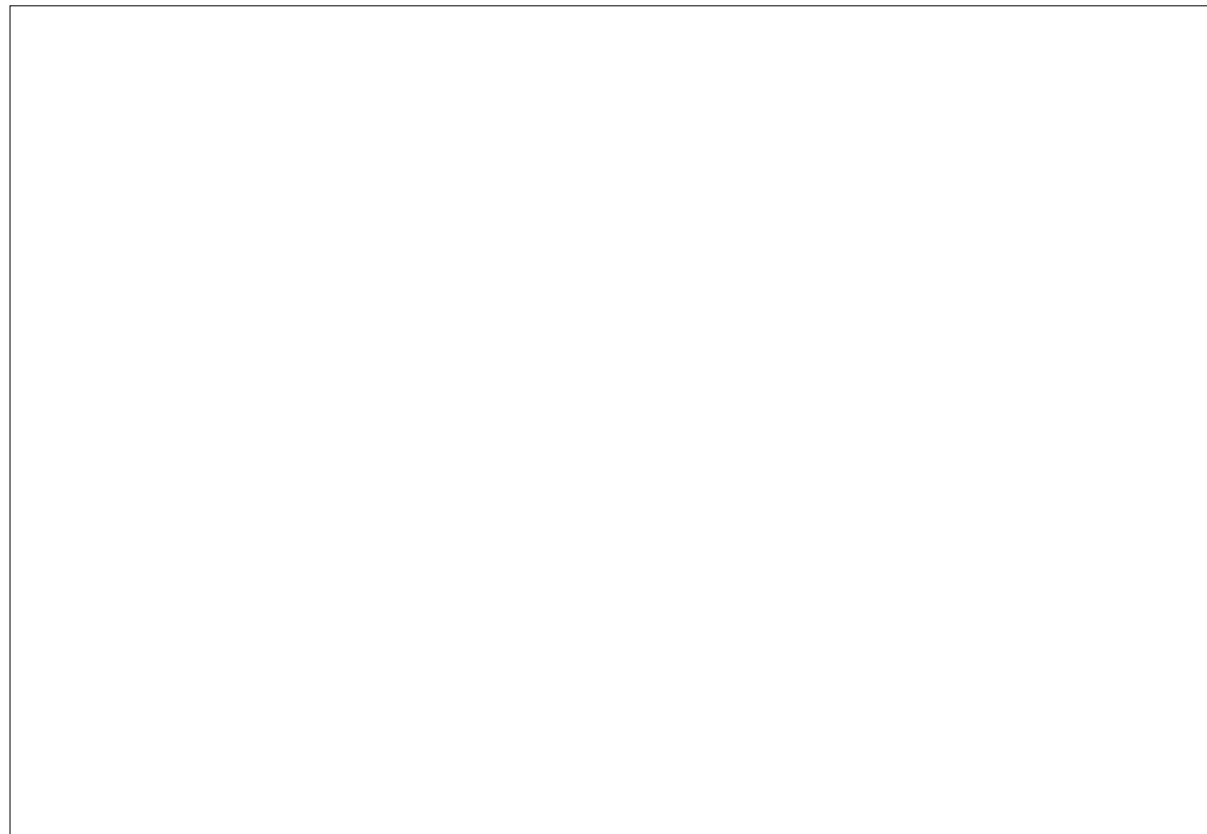
Normally rail operators keep the revenue and extract profit.

Taxpayer subsidies to GTR are set to total £8.9 billion—bosses hope to cream off £200 million from that. And it doesn't matter how badly they perform, Tory ministers will seemingly rewrite the rules to suit them.

When the company cancelled too many trains the DfT increased the threshold, meaning cancellations could increase by a third.

On Southern the scandal grows by the day. Furious passengers protested inside Brighton station last week demanding the firm be stripped of the franchise.

And GTR's lie that cancellations are due to "unprecedented" sickness among train guards is blown apart by Southern train dispatcher Ricky. He



**PROTESTING PASSENGERS** demand an end to Govia's Southern Rail franchise

told Socialist Worker that bosses are "playing tricks." "They are deliberately cancelling trains when the crew is there," he said.

"Three out of four trains were being cancelled on a shift I was on last week with no replacement buses put on—that's highly unusual.

"They're even cancelling trains that are already DOO—that's got nothing to do with guards."

Ricky said bosses are

concocting a crisis to blame on workers. "Management are telling us, 'This is coming from the DfT. DOO is happening—at all costs.'"

Bosses have been given the green light to go on the offensive. Since train guards struck last month in a dispute over DOO bosses set out to punish those that dared to oppose them.

The RMT union members had two days pay docked for each strike day.

Car parking and travel passes for their families were also revoked.

GTR hopes to intimidate workers into submission. Guards have been told to accept a new role focusing on issuing penalty fares or face the sack. But the impact of their strike on Tuesday showed the power they have to resist.

Ricky agreed, "We need to be united. Drivers, guards, station staff—we need to all come out together."

## Train for scabbing

**EMBOLDENED** by the Tories' new anti-union laws, rail operators are going on the offensive.

Abellio Scotrail have been training scabs to undermine strikes against driver-only trains. The Scottish National Party government that awarded the firm's £6 billion franchise has yet to condemn this act.

Scotrail workers struck solidly on Tuesday and were set to strike again on Thursday and Saturday.

DfT officials have even promised "punch ups" with the unions in the south east and now the courts have stepped in.

An unelected judge granted GTR an injunction to block Aslef union drivers' huge vote for action on Gatwick Express and Southern to strike against DOO.

In a sinister development a union rep was ordered to hand over their mobile, including passwords for social media.

## Guards forced to focus on revenue, not passenger safety

**AT** London's Clapham South station in March 2015, a woman's coat got trapped between the closing doors of a train.

She found the crowded carriage too much to bear and stepped back onto the platform to wait for the next service.

But she was instead dragged along by the departing train and fell into the gap between the train and the platform.

The passenger suffered injuries to her arm, head and shoulder and was taken to hospital.

This was just one of

the serious incidents investigated by the Rail Accident Investigation Branch since 2011. Some 80 percent of them involved DOO trains.

Moves, such as those by Southern, to force guards into new roles focusing on making money could see many more serious injuries on the railway, or even major disasters.

Bosses maintain that DOO only means train guards will not operate train doors but this is untrue.

Guards have 35 areas of safety responsibility



**Southern trains** are notoriously overcrowded—that means danger

for which they are trained and assessed on every two years to ensure they have retained the vital skills. Operating train doors is just one of them.

Getting rid of guards and expecting drivers to take responsibility for passenger safety as passenger numbers continue to rise is foolish at best.

There will be more injuries on the railways as a result.

Bosses' drive for profits will constantly push them to cram more of us onto trains—at exorbitant prices—and pay as few

workers as they can get away with.

The Tories are committed in principle to DOO. It will lead to cuts, deskilling and worse safety for everyone on the railways.

Drivers have enough to concentrate on with driving trains. Keeping train guards can avert major accidents, not least when a driver becomes incapacitated, and is an important safeguard that needs to be maintained.

Back the train workers fighting for safety—don't buy the rail bosses' lies.



## IN BRIEF

**Teachers' ballot set to close this week**

AN ENGLAND-WIDE strike ballot in the NUT teachers' union was set to end on Wednesday of this week.

Teachers are voting for action over the impact of Tory education policies and funding cuts.

A yes vote must lead to hard-hitting strikes.

**Pensioners fed up with meek tactics**

THE NATIONAL Pensioners Convention's (NPC) annual Pensioners' Parliament in took place in Blackpool last week.

Speakers calling for support for refugees and migrants and for a Europe where big business doesn't treat democracy with contempt got the biggest applause.

Many delegates were frustrated by the NPC's focus on lobbying MPs.

They called for an end to "the bells and whistles" and for national protests and demonstrations.

**Alan Gibson**

**Jail for Tottenham's tax rebel Reverend**

REVEREND PAUL Nicolson faces jail for non-payment of council tax.

The well-known campaigner against poverty and racism from Tottenham, north London, owes £2,831.42 in council tax since 2013.

The 84-year-old retired vicar stopped paying council tax in response to the ending of a centrally administered council tax benefit in April 2013.

Before then millions of people on low incomes paid no council tax.

**Action short of a strike at BIS office**

PCS UNION members at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in Sheffield are fighting against plans to relocate their office to London.

They began action short of strike on Monday that is set to last until 18 July.

The planned closure of the Sheffield office threatens hundreds of jobs.

The action will involve an overtime ban and refusing to cover for absent workers.

**News from nowhere after strike vote**

UNITE UNION members at Menzies Distribution have voted by 86 percent to strike for higher pay.

Bosses imposed a pay deal of £7.25 an hour in April—only five pence above the new "national living wage" of £7.20. The workers deliver newspapers across Britain.

Unite had not announced dates for strikes as Socialist Worker went to press.

## HIGHER EDUCATION



STRIKERS AT Edinburgh University

PICTURE: TALAT AHMED

# Wave of walkouts hits new set of campuses

by SADIE ROBINSON

UNIVERSITY workers took part in a wave of strikes across last week—as part of a national campaign over pay.

The UCU union members want equal pay for women, an end to casual contracts and more than the 1.1 percent pay offer currently on the table.

Some nine strikes took place last week—at Edinburgh, Kent, Sussex, Glasgow, West of Scotland, Bath, Bristol, Coventry and Essex universities.

Shereen, a UCU branch committee member in Edinburgh, told Socialist Worker, "People are very angry about the constant erosion of our pay—and at pay inequality

and casualisation."

Tom Frost, UCU branch secretary at Sussex, told Socialist Worker, "An awful lot of our members are angry about casual contracts.

"The fact that 26,000 university workers are on zero hours contracts is a disgrace."

Union branches chose dates to coincide with events such as open days or to disrupt exam boards awarding degree marks.

Strikers stressed that attacks on them are bad for students.

Tom said, "Students don't want to pay £9,000 a year to be taught by someone on an insecure contract."

Edinburgh striker Phil added, "You need enthusiastic and well-supported staff to have enthusiastic and

**Uni strike dates**

- **Tue 21 Jun**—Central Lancashire
- **Wed 22 Jun**—Greenwich, Manchester, King's College London, Oxford, Reading, Queen Margaret (Edinburgh), Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance (Greenwich), Soas, Wolverhampton, University of Wales Trinity St David
- **Thu 23 Jun**—Birkbeck, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Leeds, Sheffield, Glasgow Caledonian
- **Fri 24 Jun**—Chester, Liverpool, Warwick, Glasgow School of Art, Heriot-Watt (Edinburgh), Oxford Brookes

## SOLIDARITY

## Chris Stephenson to face trial in Turkey this week

URGENT SOLIDARITY is needed to defend socialist activist and lecturer Chris Stephenson. His trial starts this week on 23 June.

Turkish authorities have charged him with possessing "propaganda for a terrorist organisation."

Police found invitations to a Newroz (Kurdish New Year) celebration in his bag, which the People's Democratic Party (HDP) had printed.

Turkish police used the leaflets as an excuse to drag Chris in front of a state prosecutor, who recommended deportation.

Chris went to London with his family, but then found he could return to Turkey. The



Activist Chris Stephenson

decision now to prosecute Chris follows months of brutal repression by the Turkish state.

● Send messages of protest to the Turkish embassy [embassy.london@mfa.gov.tr](mailto:embassy.london@mfa.gov.tr)  
Send messages of support to [solidaritywithchrisstepheson@gmail.com](mailto:solidaritywithchrisstepheson@gmail.com)

## HENRY HICKS

## Police cars had 'no regard for safety', hears inquest

THE INQUEST into the death of north London teenager Henry Hicks heard evidence from four police officers on Monday.

Henry died aged just 18 on 19 December 2014 after crashing his moped while being chased by two unmarked police cars.

The inquest began last Monday. It also heard that police recovered seven bags of cannabis and £230 in cash from the crash.

Detective Sergeant Arvinder Marwaha told the court that mobile phones with texts using the phrase "banging lemon" were also recovered from the scene. He said the phrase was a reference to skunk cannabis.

The court also heard from Christopher Moran, the father of Henry's best friend. Moran said that he was



Protesting for Henry Hicks

driving a van on the night of the crash. He said he saw Henry overtake him at about 30 miles per hour.

Moran said he then saw two unmarked police cars following Henry at around 60-70 miles per hour.

He said, "My van actually rocked, the speed they were going. When I saw the police coming, in my mind they had no regard for safety."

**Nick Clark**

## STUDENTS

## Rent strikers beat 'back door fees hike'

A RENT strike at University College London (UCL) has forced management to reduce their sky-high rents.

Students at three halls of residence owned by UCL have been refusing to pay the extortionate rents.

In some cases students have to pay as much as £1,200 per month.

The victory means that

the university is cutting £200,000 from the rents of students living in halls for next academic year and £500,000 from rents in the academic year starting in 2017.

Rent striker Claude told Socialist Worker, "They're funding new university buildings with the rent. It's effectively a back door

tuition fees increase.

"It's a result of the marketisation of education. The central government is forcing universities to become financially independent.

"It's a victory for next year's students. Rent is still extortionate but it's a step in the right direction."

**Alistair Farrow**

## LGBT+

## LGBT+ Against Islamophobia meets

ACTIVISTS are organising against the right's attempts to whip up Islamophobia after the Orlando massacre.

LGBT+ activists, Muslims and anti-racists joined an LGBT+ Against Islamophobia's organising meeting in London last Sunday. Dani, one of the organisers, said, "LGBT+

people and Muslims are both experiencing oppression.

"We want to come together—and to recognise LGBT+ Muslims, who are often overlooked."

They discussed how they can show solidarity. Sami argued that the group had to show unconditional solidarity with Muslims under attack.

Ahmer, an LGBT+ Muslim from Bradford, told Socialist Worker, "We also need to be aware of the suffering of LGBT Muslims.

"We need an open dialogue between the LGBT and Muslim communities to say, 'we'll help you with Islamophobia and we need your help with homophobia.'"

## OBITUARY

**Bob Holman**  
1936-2016

BOB HOLMAN, who died last week, was a lifelong fighter for social justice.

He was a Christian socialist who gave up an academic career to live and work in deprived working class communities in Birmingham and Glasgow.

In a period when social work departments were becoming increasingly divorced from the people they claimed to serve, Bob practiced real community social work.

He was a good friend to the Social Work Action Network (Swan).

Bob's commitment to improving the lives of people

he lived and worked beside sometimes led him to have strange bedfellows—most notably Tory Iain Duncan Smith.

But Bob did not hesitate to condemn Duncan Smith's behavior once he was welfare minister.

He saw Duncan Smith's policies as a betrayal of the promises he had made to the people of Glasgow's Easterhouse estate.

Bob's political philosophy is perhaps best summed up by a book he edited in the late 1990s called Faith in the Poor. It was ordinary people's intelligence, resilience and creativity that Bob saw as the best hope for the future.

**Iain Ferguson**

● Longer version on [socialistworker.co.uk](http://socialistworker.co.uk)



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# You sold us out on pay, say delegates

by RAYMIE KIERNAN in Brighton

**FOR THE second time in 15 months local government workers in the Unison union have revolted against their leadership after a pay sellout in England and Wales.**

At the union's conference in Brighton on Monday delegates voted to censure Unison's National Joint Council (NJC) committee.

The NJC had accepted a 1 percent pay deal from local government employers, despite a two thirds rejection of the deal by members.

Moving an emergency motion, Jon from Lambeth in south London called the whole affair a "sorry tale".

Some of the motion's opponents blamed members for not wanting to fight. Others blamed the GMB union for accepting the deal, or the Unite union for only wanting limited industrial action.

Some argued that low paid workers cannot afford to strike. But Tracy from Sefton said, "I've worked 15 years as a general domestic assistant in the care sector. I'm one of the low paid members who got 6 percent in this deal."

"But after 15 years I get £7.20 an hour. My pay award this year was crap—I got 6 percent of next to nothing. Don't patronise the low paid by saying we won't strike."

Esther from Hounslow



TEACHING ASSISTANTS in Unison struck in Derby last week (see below)

PICTURE: SUE ARGUILLE

in west London asked, "Are we a member-led union? It doesn't feel like that."

"We talk about how we have to recruit but when do we get the most recruitment? When we are fighting back."

## Overtuned

The leadership's sellout of the last local government pay deal was overturned by a special conference in March last year.

Yet officials again accepted a two-year deal that leaves a majority of local government workers worse off.

Jim from Doncaster argued that members "look to our

union for a lead. The 20 percent real terms cut in pay since 2010 cannot stand."

Jim responded to those who said there is "no appetite" for action. To huge applause he argued, "You have to campaign and you have to fight to win people to a strategy."

He said, "We're not talking about blame here, we're talking about accountability."

He said there is a "democratic deficit" in the union that needs to be addressed.

He pointed out that general secretary Dave Prentis was elected on just 5 percent of those eligible to vote.

Monday's vote is another sign that many members and branch and regional officials have no faith in Prentis's leadership.

His re-election last December is still subject to internal investigations and complaints to the Certification Officer.

Recent elections to the union's service group executives saw around two thirds of seats filled by candidates standing unopposed. A third of all seats were left vacant.

It is a damning indictment of Prentis's reign. Activists need to push for resistance—and union democracy.

## HOUSING



On the march last Saturday

PICTURE: DEAN RYAN

## Defy Tories' Housing Act

SOME 500 people marched in London last Saturday to demand the Tories scrap their poisonous Housing and Planning Act.

The act is an ideological assault on council and social housing. The Tories want to redefine what social housing means so that only the most vulnerable can access it, and only for a limited time.

Jan Sweeney from West Kensington and Chelsea told Socialist Worker, "The council leader Nick Pagett-Brown thinks that social housing is only for those in the most dire need. Kensington and Chelsea council hates social housing."

But councillors from Camden, Southwark and other areas attended the demonstration, demanding the government abandon the act.

Richard Livingstone from Southwark council spoke about the need to unite to defeat the Act.

But people also heckled him over Southwark council's

disgraceful role in the redevelopment of the Heygate estate. This saw the majority of tenants forced out despite the council promising to rehouse them.

Pat Callaghan, lead councillor for housing in Camden, told Socialist Worker, "Unless we unite across London and across the country we're not going to beat the act. We need to come onto the streets."

There is just under a year before the Housing and Planning Act is implemented. There is no time to be wasted in building the organisation that can block it.

By putting councils under political pressure to make a stand, and fighting against them when they don't, the act can be defeated.

The march said clearly that refugees and migrants are not to blame for the housing crisis.

**Alistair Farrow**

● Go to [bit.ly/1tvnlad](http://bit.ly/1tvnlad) for more information about the Axe the Housing Act campaign

## ROTHERHAM ASSAULT

## Attackers use racial abuse

A VIOLENT assault was carried out against an Afghan taxi driver in a suspected racist attack in Rotherham last week.

The assault on the 28 year old man took place in the Swinton area of the South Yorkshire town at 12.40 am on 14 June.

The victim was racially abused and says he was attacked for "being a Muslim".

It is believed four men assaulted him after he picked them up outside a pub.

One allegedly said, "When you come to our country, do what we say."

The attack took place in the vehicle of the taxi driver and he was found unconscious on the road. His injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

Police arrested two men. Racist attacks have been on the rise in Rotherham

following a series of Nazi demonstrations.

Fascists have tried to use a sexual exploitation scandal to whip up racism.

Last August an 81 year old man, Mushin Ahmed, was beaten to death in a racist murder.

■ **ANTI-FASCISTS in Rotherham will protest against the Islamophobic Pegida group on Saturday 30 July.**

**The UAF protest will assemble in Rotherham from 12 noon.**

■ **UNITE AGAINST Fascism has called a protest against a planned demonstration by the Nazi English Defence League on Saturday 16 July in London.**

● Go to [bit.ly/28JpCNh](http://bit.ly/28JpCNh)

## DERBY

## Teaching assistants strike

A STRIKE by teaching assistants (TAs) in Derby shut thirty schools and partially closed many others last Thursday.

Some 1,200 TAs are resisting a Labour-run council that is imposing new contracts that slash pay by up to a quarter and increase the working week.

Hundreds of striking TAs in the Unison union held an angry demonstration outside council offices.

This week TAs will walk out between 12 noon and 2pm each day.

The attack in Derby, happening as a result of a so-called "equal pay review", mirrors another attack by Labour on TAs at Durham County Council.

There it plans to sack and rehire 2,700 TAs on

worse terms.

Councils are forcing TAs onto term time only contracts.

Unison's local government conference this week voted for the union to campaign for school workers to be employed during every week of the year.

York delegate and TA Julie said, "Strikes are the only way we can stop these cuts. I don't understand why teachers are balloting nationally against cuts but we are not."

Lizzie is a TA in Durham. She told Socialist Worker that the Labour council's justification for cuts was just about "divide and rule".

She said Durham was pushing for a massive campaign but the fight needed to take place nationally. **Thanks to Sue Arguille**

## TOTTENHAM

**HARINGEY COUNCIL and Tottenham football club in north London plan a major redevelopment of the area around the club's White Hart Lane ground.**

Large areas of housing and communal areas are set to be demolished. Activists from Haringey Defend Council Housing met last week to oppose the scheme.

Pam from the Cressingham Gardens campaign in south London told Socialist Worker, "I'm shocked by the lack of information the council has released. How are residents supposed to make an informed decision?"

Paul Hodges from Tottenham Labour Party said, "I asked the leader of Haringey council to give me a guarantee that there are going to be council tenancies after the redevelopment. She said she couldn't give me that guarantee."

Residents and tenants from Northumberland Park estate where there are 2,000 people, including 1,125 council tenants under threat, discussed how to fight back.

Lynn Silver Markell said, "We should have a statement signed by everyone on the estate saying 'I want to stay'. We should have posters in everyone's window."

## JOURNALISTS

## Pickets outside parliament

JOURNALISTS WORKING at the BBC Parliament channel struck last Wednesday to demand pay parity with other workers.

The members of the NUJ union want broadcast assistants at BBC Parliament to be paid the same rate as at other BBC channels.

Striker Simon Vaughan told Socialist Worker that broadcast assistants had been trying for years to make

bosses pay them properly.

He said, "We've been talking to management for four years. It's come to an impasse really."

He added, "We're hopeful that management will start treating us like grown ups."

MPs from different political parties visited strikers on the picket line.

Workers are considering further action short of strikes.

● Full story at [bit.ly/28JiSMF](http://bit.ly/28JiSMF)





STRIKING SOUTHERN Rail workers picketing in Brighton on Tuesday were joined by delegates from the Unison union conference

## STRIKES SCARE FAT CAT BOSSES

by STEVE JOHNSTON, RAYMIE KIERNAN and DAVE SEWELL

**FOUR STRIKES** hit public transport around Britain this week as workers lose patience with management attempts to squeeze their pay and conditions.

Bus workers in the Unite union struck over pay in Weymouth and Leeds on Monday.

Then train guards in the RMT union struck on Southern and on Scotrail on Tuesday. They are fighting bosses' attempts to make drivers run trains without guards (see page 17).

The streets of Leeds were almost empty of buses as workers on First buses struck.

### Picket

Strikers were out in force on the picket lines—the Hunslet depot had 60 on one gate and 20 on another.

It was their second strike after bosses refused the union's pay claim.

Unite member Mark told Socialist Worker, "For me it would have meant an extra 36p an hour.

"We thought they'd agree to it—it's only 1 percent, and they gave a 5 percent rise to management. And at the end of the day, we're the ones who are bringing the money in."

First reported £56 million profit last year—a third of it coming from Leeds.

Mark said, "The majority of passengers support us. People tell us when they get on the bus they think the company is out of order."

On the picket line, one Polish worker brought a flag of the Solidarnosc union that his father had flown during the immense Gdansk shipyard strike in 1981.

Workers shouted, gesticulated and honked airhorns at scabs, mostly managers brought in to break the strike at the top rate of pay plus a £50 bonus.

Similar issues lay behind a five-day walkout at First Dorset buses in Weymouth that began on Monday.

Workers there say they are the "poor relations"—paid less than colleagues in nearby Southampton.

Disputes could be looming at other First franchises.



First Dorset bus drivers picketing in Weymouth, Dorset



**People want a railway that's safe, on time and doesn't cost the earth'**

Mark said, "There's quite a sense of grievance against the company."

Scotrail workers walked out across Scotland on Tuesday. RMT union regional organiser Martin Gordon told Socialist Worker, "The strike is solid, with picket lines from Dumfries in the south to Aberdeen and Inverness in the north."

"The picket lines are very confident and upbeat—workers are angry and they

want to communicate that to the bosses. The company is painting this as a dispute just about pushing buttons to open and close doors, but that's a complete distortion of guards' role."

The same move towards so-called driver-only operation (DOO) drove the strike at Southern rail.

### Safety

On the picket line in Brighton, train guard and RMT rep Simon explained, "We don't just close the doors. Everything we do is focussed around maintaining safety on the train at all times."

Cutting their role affects passengers. Southern now only provides assistance to disabled passengers if they give advance notice.

Simon said, "There was a guy I picked up the other day who is really worried about this. He doesn't know what he'll be able to do if he has to visit his sick mother."

Drivers in the Aslef union want to strike too, but Southern has won an injunction to stop them.

Aslef is in court on Monday of next week for a full

injunction hearing. Bosses are desperate to avoid a second front opening while they attack the guards.

Simon said, "If the drivers can get out on strike then the company is in trouble."

Many people are sick of overpriced, unreliable and crowded transport, and strikes against bus and rail bosses can win support.

Delegates at the Unison union conference (see page 19) and the Unison and RMT general secretaries joined the picket line in Brighton.

The Scotrail drivers planned to strike again on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Gordon encouraged supporters to visit picket lines and pick up union postcards to send to the company.

Simon said, "The public are backing us. Last week's protest in the station here was really good."

"People just want to have a proper railway that's safe, runs on time and doesn't cost the earth."

**On other pages**  
Scandals at Southern Railway >>Page 17